

Hafa Adai!

Applications now being accepted for 2022 BRMC Scholarship. **PAGE 5**

OES inducts new members of elementary honor society. **PAGE 11**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 76

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY APRIL 18, 2022

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

## Senate hearing setup questioned

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has raised concerns about the lack of a two-party system in the Senate's impeachment proceedings for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.



Magofna

The Republican-controlled Senate is gearing up to initiate impeachment proceedings against Torres starting with a hearing Tuesday on the governor's motion to dismiss the articles of impeachment.

In the memorandum calling for the attendance of the Senate body for Tuesday's hearing, Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) also noted that selected House impeachment prosecutor, Rep. Corina Magofna (D-Saipan), will not be allowed to attend.

In a statement from Magofna over the weekend, she raised her concerns about how the

proceedings will move forward without a two-party system.

"How will the Senate proceed with the impeachment hearing without the necessary

two-party system, the defense and prosecution, and most importantly, without any impeachment record," she asked.

Magofna said she just hopes that the Senate president's plan to initiate impeachment proceedings without the proper parties is in the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth.

"I sincerely hope that Senate president Hofschneider's conduct to initiate the impeachment proceeding [this] week without the proper par-

See SENATE on Page 4

## Garapan revitalization A&E now at 60%

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

The plan to revitalize the core tourist district of Garapan was presented to the public last Thursday, April 14, at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center, with officials handling the project reporting a 60% progress in their architecture and design phase.

Christopher A. Concepcion, who is the deputy director of the Office of Planning and Development and is the Garapan Revitalization Task Force chairman, and project manager Timothy Lang first played a PowerPoint presentation that showed slides of the street plans that have been laid out so far, then gave way to the public to raise questions or concerns about the presentation.

Concepcion said the goal of the task force is to transform Garapan into a premier family-friendly destination, featuring a wide range of shopping, dining, entertainment, civic and commercial uses in a world-class beach resort setting that is attractive for visitors and residents.

The project will involve repairing and repaving Garapan. See GARAPAN on Page 4

## Hundreds make the trek up Mt. Tapochao

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of the Catholic faithful were able to make the annual pilgrimage to the highest point of Saipan this year as part of the Good Friday tradition, and were blessed with an overcast and windy but dry weather.

In what has become a remarkable sight, most of those who made the pilgrimage did so without masks—the first time in a long while for many of the Catholic faithful on Saipan to congregate side by side for one of the Catholic Church's holiest days.

And with the weather holding steady, the roads were clear of mud and puddles, and the sky had but a small hint of sunlight around 8am when the pilgrimage was completed.

Many of the Catholic devotees, who walk to the top of Mount Tapochao every Good Friday in remembrance of Jesus Christ's journey before his crucifixion, start their journey by gathering at the base of the mountain and walking up as early as 3am to avoid the crowds and traffic and the early morning sun.

As has also become tradition, many groups and organizations, such as the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, set up booths along the way and handed out water, refreshments, and some food to

sustain the pilgrims.

The heart of the tradition, which is when a wooden cross is brought up to the top of the mountain and erected, started on schedule at 5:30am, with about 30 to 35 men taking turns to carry the enormous 30-foot cross up the mountain. The cross is usually carried up the mountain on the shoulders of devotees. Some view it as a form of atonement; others as a religious obligation.

According to one devotee, he has never missed a single Good Friday trek and always helped carry the cross and mount it at the peak of Mount Tapochao. He said that it was canceled for two years because of the pandemic so he

See HUNDREDS on Page 4

LEIGH GASES

Groups of devotees help plant the cross at the peak of Mount Tapochao last Good Friday.



### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

### INSIDE



#### LOCAL

Hotel Nikko Guam is kicking off plans for a brand refresh as it prepares for the return of visitors.

Page 2



#### NATION

Police have arrested a suspect in connection with a shooting at a busy shopping mall in South Carolina.

Page 12



#### WORLD

Russian forces renewed missile strikes on Kyiv and intensified shelling of Kharkiv.

Page 13



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



## Local



## Hotel Nikko Guam sets brand refresh with 'Effortless Eden'

» Hotel celebrates 30 years and reopening of tourism with planned service upgrades

**TUMON, Guam**—Hotel Nikko Guam, a Premier Hotel Group property and a member of Ken Corp. Group, is kicking off plans for a brand refresh as it celebrates more than 30 years of serving Guam and as the hotel prepares for the full return of visitors in the coming

months. The enhancements are slated for completion in stages through the new year.

The hotel's leadership team spent much of the pandemic conceptualizing how Hotel Nikko Guam's overall experience can better serve its customers.

Yusuke "William" Shinozaki, acting general manager of Hotel Nikko Guam, said, "With more than three decades of operating [in] Guam, we have developed a unique following. As we emerge from the pandemic, we need to adapt to the current market and stay relevant for our local guests and source market visitors."

"Our parent company, PHR Ken Corp., with six hotel properties [in] Guam along with a golf course and spa, is committed to improving the overall Guam product and appeal to the ever-changing consumer landscape," he said. "Hotel Nikko Guam wants to become a place where visitors feel at home away from home, where they can come back to regularly to enjoy excellent service, delicious cuisine, and comfortable and quality accommodations. Our brand refresh focuses on catering to the guests' need to feel at ease, escape from their everyday lives, and feel sure of the value and safety that we provide."

Hotel Nikko Guam has committed efforts to make improvements from the inside out. Its leadership team was tasked with translating the hotel's news brand refresh guidelines into tangible experiences for guests.

Hotel Nikko Guam's refreshed branding will position the property as an "Effortless Eden," where service and quality will be enhanced with the hotel's key values—Ease, Escape, and Ensure.

The hotel also announced the launch of its new brand refresh video, called Effortless Eden, which features the hotel's 30-year legacy and nature scenes of Guam, and lays the

path to the future. The video is posted on Hotel Nikko Guam's Instagram and Facebook (@hotelnikkoguam).

The refreshed brand experience will be crafted to create a nesting utopia, a home away from home for guests. The Hotel Nikko Guam will be offering service enhancements throughout the hotel, and the changes will be felt over time and implemented by the new year. Some of these enhancements include a contactless check-in experience, where guests are tended to on a personalized level. Guests will be able to make reservations for dining through the hotel's app.

Once implemented, the updated brand experience will be felt from arrival at the hotel and the comfort in the guestrooms to the exceptional dining experiences. Hotel Nikko Guam looks to provide moments that make guests feel like being in an Effortless Eden on the beautiful island of Guam.

### Experiences in Nature

Hotel Nikko Guam is situated on the north end of Tumon Bay and provides a semi-private experience in nature. Hotel guests enjoy the beachfront pool, waterpark, nature trail, and beachfront access to a pristine and tranquil cove. The hotel will highlight these experiences in nature for guests in the source markets as a tropical getaway from the bustle of a busy life. The hotel will position the island as a relaxing experience with a cosmopolitan lifestyle within steps of the hotel.

Shinozaki added, "Some of the refreshed enhancements will extend beyond our branding materials. They'll include the warmth of our hospitality, attentive and personalized service, and the feeling of ease on our property. Guam is a tropical paradise, and we want our guests to experience all that the property and island offer in a safe environment."

Other enhanced plans include an updated website, mobile app, and service enhancements throughout the property. Special promotions will be announced and shared soon.

### A Guam Safe Certified property

Hotel Nikko Guam is a Guam Safe Certified property and places the health and safety of customers as its top priority.

See **HOTEL** on Page 4

happy  
**ADMINISTRATIVE  
PROFESSIONALS day!**  
Celebrate with lunch at Aqua Resort Club!  
ARC  
AQUA RESORT CLUB  
Saipan

**Special  
Welcome Drink  
& Raffle Prizes for  
Administrative  
Professionals!**

**5+1 SPECIAL  
TREAT THE  
WHOLE TEAM!**

**Every boss treating  
their staff of 5+ adults  
eats FREE!**

## INTERNATIONAL Lunch Buffet

Costa Terrace Restaurant  
Thursday, April 21 | 10:30AM - 2PM

Adults \$25.00 | \$19.00\*

Children (6-11) \$12.50 | \$10.00\*

\*Local Resident Rates - valid CNMI ID required.

*meet me at costa!*

Please call 670-322-1234 ext. 731

Reservations Recommended.  
Mask Required at Entrance.



# \$49M contract out for natural resources management in Pacific

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM**—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific awarded a \$49 million multiple award contract on April 14 for natural resources management services at various locations within the NAVFAC Pacific area of operations.

"This MAC will enable natural resources managers to execute competitive task orders in a timely manner for a wide variety of natural resources projects associated with the monitoring, management, and protection of natural resources

that are needed for compliance with environmental laws and regulations," said NAVFAC Pacific Environmental Terrestrial Natural Resources program manager Cory Campora.

The work to be performed provides for natural resources management services for fauna surveys, flora surveys, wetlands, habitat restoration and integrated natural resources management plans.

Work will be performed in the NAVFAC Pacific AO including Guam, Hawaii and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by the



following five businesses—Hamer Environmental L.P. of Mount Vernon, Washington; HDR Environmental, Opera-

tions and Construction, Inc. of Englewood, Colorado; Pacific Federal Management, Inc. of Tumon, Guam; Sundance-EA

Associates II JV of Pocatello, Idaho; and Sustainable Resources Group International, Inc. of Kailua, Hawaii.

"This contract will also promote job growth, bolster the economy, and provide essential mission support to the Department of Defense in the Pacific area," said Campora.

The term of the contract is not to exceed 60 months, with an expected completion date of April 2027. (USN)

## ARMATECH

Wireless WIFI Antenna Installer and Repairer

Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com  
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

## ATTENTION Government Employees & Retirees!

**SAVE MONEY with the Island Smiles Discount Dental Plan. ENROLL TODAY!**

- **Cheapest Price:** \$5.00 (Individual Plan), \$6.00 (Two-Party Plan) or \$7.00 (Family Plan) per bi-weekly allotment. Cheapest dental plan in the CNMI.
- Members receive at LEAST **20%-50% discounts** on all dental procedures. No exceptions!
- **Plan Provider:** Paradise Dental Spa. State-of-the-art, full service General and Cosmetic dental clinic. Most experienced dentists in the CNMI. Really nice people and the coffee pot is always on! Great aircon and free WiFi.

Award-Winning Dentists  
kind and gentle

DR. NELSON KRUM  
DR. RICHARD ARBUCKLE



Paradise Dental



Hawaii Dental Service, Take Care, Calvo's, Cigna, Staywell, and LHI Insurances also accepted. Medicaid patients welcome! Best Aircon on the island, and the coffee pot is always on!

**Call 234-4040**

Middle Road, Gualo Rai, across from Chong's Refrigeration

Stop by and pick up your enrollment packet or send an email request to paradisidentalisaipan@gmail.com

www.paradisidentalisaipan.com Instagram.com/paradisidentalisaipan Facebook.com/paradisidentalisaipan

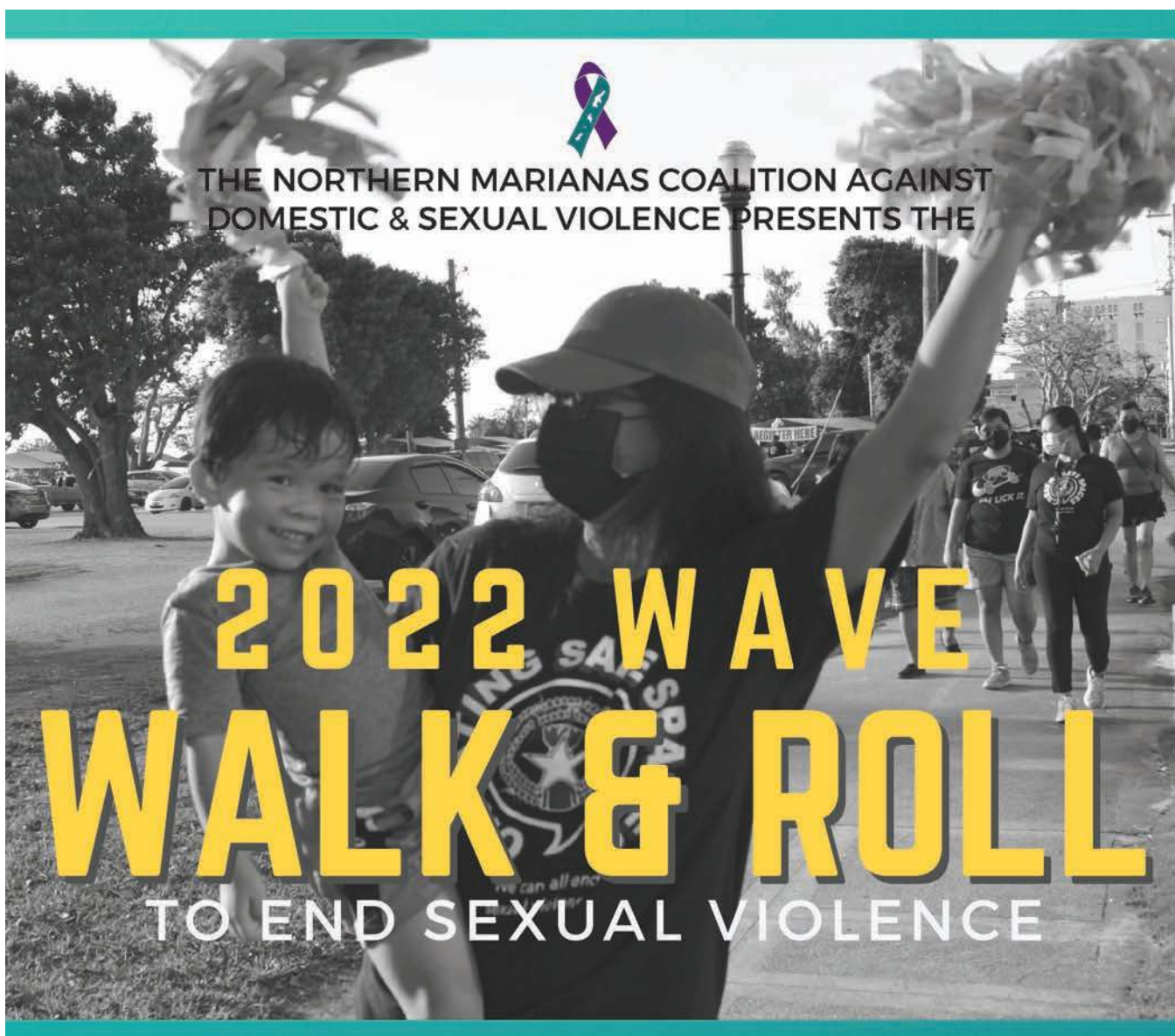
## ART MAN CORPORATION

SERVICES will be:

- Sewer Pumping
- Snake Wiring
- Portable Toilet Rental
- Portable Hand Wash Station
- Handling Recyclable Wastes



PMB 122 Box 10000  
MP 96950, Lower Base  
artmancorporation@gmail.com  
Please Call: 234-8079 | 287-8079



**THURSDAY, APRIL 21**  
**MOUNT CARMEL CATHEDRAL FIELD**

**APRIL IS  
SEXUAL ASSAULT  
AWARENESS MONTH**

**FREE t-shirts while supplies last**

**FOR MORE INFO:**

**(670) 234-3878**  
info@endviolencenmi.org

**4:30PM - Registration for Event & T-Shirts**  
**5:15PM - Waving | 5:30PM - Walk & Roll**

This project is supported by Grant No. 15JQVW-21-CG-00814-RURA awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.



## IN ENFORCING MARIJUANA LAWS

## OAG: We're not going to prosecute unless it's become dangerous

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
Kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General says it will not be pressing charges against individuals legally licensed to cultivate and sell cannabis unless it's become a danger to the community.

According to Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds of the OAG Criminal Division, charges will only be pressed if

there is reason to believe that marijuana is being trafficked.

"I think it's important that people understand that we're not going to prosecute unless there's a situation where we're seeing the danger of trafficking, or [if individuals] are delivering it to children," he said.

A scenario Hinds gave as an example to warrant prosecution is if an individual licensed to grow marijuana is caught growing an excessive amount.

"We would prosecute if there's an excessive amount being grown. For instance, that person could fall in a category where we can say that maybe they're trafficking, or unlawfully delivering. If a person is just selling a plant on Saipan Buy and Sell, we're not going to arrest them or prosecute them. But if they're over the line, especially if they're growing at home, and they're growing

more than they should, we're going to try and get them in compliance," he said.

In addition, importation of marijuana would also be grounds for prosecution, he said.

So far, no huge charges related to marijuana have been filed but warning have been given out. Hinds added that he just wants people to understand that his office wants to help the marijuana industry flourish the right way and, as much as possible, get everyone in compliance before pressing any charges.

"We've been giving warnings, especially for people who are growing at their home. We haven't been doing a lot of prosecuting and we probably won't do a lot of prosecuting when it comes to people at their home as long as they're in compliance. But if they choose not to be compliant, and they choose to grow excessive amounts, then there's a chance that we do prosecute," he said.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Tau Gamma Phi Northern Mariana Islands Council continue their community service of handing out refreshments during the annual Mt. Tapochao Good Friday service.

## GARAPAN

From Page 1

rapan's streets, maintaining existing storm water drainages, maximizing on-street parking consisting of 95 parking spaces, constructing new concrete sidewalks and curbs, planting new trees and landscaping, installing new street lights, installing bike lanes and shared streets, and opening up Paseo de Marianas into a two-way street as a hybrid street and event space.

The streets within Garapan that are included in the plan is from Beach Road, north of Garapan Street, to Royal Palm Avenue, Coffee Tree Mall, Ginger Avenue, Plumeria Avenue, Coconut Street, Date Street, Paseo de Marianas, Palm Street, and the Micro Beach Road, south sidewalks.

"We will repave Garapan core streets, add sidewalks, curbs, lighting, landscaping,

and will maximize on-street parking within the public rights of way. We are excited about the future of the Garapan core," Concepcion said in an interview last week prior to the presentation.

In attendance Thursday were some officials, small business owners around the Garapan area, landowners, and other members of the public.

Some concerns raised by small business owners in Garapan were that the trees, plants, and decorations that will be set up around the area will create a lot of debris when typhoons or storms hit, as well as issues of who will be responsible for maintenance and cleanliness.

Lang addressed these concerns by saying that the trees planted will be "low maintenance plants. We don't want stuff that you have to water. We don't want stuff that needs

tender loving care. Hardy local plants are what we're requiring in the design."

In addressing the maintenance issue, Lang said, "There's a community improvement district that is in the works. And that is a special district...which gives the businesses and the residents of the area some autonomy and some sort of self-governance. And they're able to collect fees...and they could raise the money that could help maintain the plants and landscaping, which honestly, I'm hoping is not going to be a lot."

Concepcion acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic played havoc with the timeline of the project. "In December 2019, after months of putting tons of documents together and right before we knew anything about COVID-19, we submitted our grant application to the Economic Development Administration. ... COVID-19 hit us just a couple of months later in the early part of 2020 and the CNMI and the rest of the world pretty much shut down, and that delayed the start of this project, but we never stopped working. Throughout 2020, we went back and forth with [the Economic Development Administration] and multiple other local and federal agencies on additional documents required, forms needing submittal, applications needing signatures and all that bureaucratic stuff," said Concepcion.

The EDA grant was awarded in February 2021 and the initial construction will begin in August this year, which will take about 18-24 months for completion.

The EDA under the U.S. Department of Commerce awarded the CNMI \$11.2 million to fund the project.

## People may soon self-select sex marker on SSN records

The Social Security Administration will now offer people the choice to self-select their sex on their Social Security number record.

A Social Security news release last week quotes Kilolo Kijakazi, acting Commissioner of Social Security, saying the agency anticipates this option will be available in the fall of 2022.

"The Social Security Administration is committed to reducing barriers and ensuring the fair treatment of the LGBTQ+ community by updating our procedures for Social Security number records," said Kijakazi. "This policy change will allow people to self-select their sex in our records without needing to provide documentation of their sex designation."

People who update their sex marker in Social Security's

records will need to apply for a replacement SSN card. They will still need to show a current document to prove their identity, but they will no longer need to provide medical or legal documentation of their sex designation once the policy change becomes effective. SSN cards do not include sex markers.

In February 2022, the agency issued guidance instructing employees to accept evidence documents that contain non-binary identifiers (e.g., "X") for original SSN and replacement SSN card applications, and other updates to the agency's internal SSN records. The agency is exploring possible future policy and systems updates to support an "X" sex designation for the SSN card application process. (PR)

## HUNDREDS

From Page 1

is thankful that it's back and they're able to carry it again this year.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was seen walking with his family and said he started at 4:30am. He said he was "very impressed with the turnout. A lot of people just came out. ... I just found somebody here that is 78 years old that walked from here to the top. And so it's just a really nice turnout."

Saipan Mayor David Apatang was also seen with the Saipan Mayor's Office staff handing out water to the public. He thanked his staff for working hard to get the place ready for everybody. He hopes to see everyone at the mountain again next year.

The cross and procession reached the top of the mountain at around 6:30am, which was greeted by devotees who were already awaiting their arrival.

Prior to having the cross

planted at the mountain's peak, Rev. Father James Balajadia thanked everyone who helped carry the cross "and volunteered for many years." He then blessed the cross and offered a prayer. The cross was then carried up to one side of the mountain by the 30 or so devotees, which took a few minutes to be secured properly and safely. As it was being hoisted up, the cross swung a little dangerously to the side but was finally hoisted up and placed securely.

Cheers were heard from the devotees at the bottom of the mountain, who were waiting patiently for the cross to finally be put in place.

Balajadia later said, "We're honored and privileged at Santa Remedios Parish that we were able to reopen and restart this tradition this Friday."

## HOTEL

From Page 2

The hotel's team has implemented meticulous steps to sanitize the property and implement a safety system that has become a natural part of its service standards.

"We have also committed to a high safety standard for our guests. We must contribute to elevating Guam's overall reputation as a safe destination. We believe that this will support a successful reopening of Guam's tourism economy, so we can get our team back to work," he noted. "We thank our team for joining us as we continue our journey in providing unforgettable experiences for our customers who have supported us throughout our 30 years on Guam. Making these updates will provide a new Guam experience for our guests who will be returning soon." (PR)

## SENATE

From Page 1

ties involved and the necessary evidence is within the best interests of our people, and that his 'novel' approach does not, in a practical sense, hinder our legislative progress and injure the future of our people for years to come with his act," Magofna said.

In her statement, Magofna claims that the Senate majority has made it difficult for the House to carry out its impeachment of Torres.

"It has been quite troubling these past few months with our legislative counterpart. The Senate majority has made it extremely difficult for members of the House to exercise

and engage in our constitutional oath and duties during the impeachment of Go. Torres' proceedings at the Senate level," she said.

With the upcoming hearing on Torres' motion to dismiss the articles of impeachment against him, the Senate has issued guidelines for public access to the Legislature in what it said is meant "to ensure access for the public and to preserve the integrity of the hearing proceedings."

## Livestream

The impeachment hearing proceedings will be livestreamed for the public on cable TV on Channel 23 and/or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/enmilegislature](http://www.facebook.com/enmilegislature).

## Admission

All persons seeking admission to the Senate gallery or lobby shall sign-in at the Senate entrance.

After signing-in, each person shall receive a numbered pass that shall be worn by the person in plain sight.

When exiting the Senate gallery or lobby, the pass shall be returned to the door-person on duty.

Once a person exits the gallery or lobby, they shall only be allowed re-admittance if seating is available.

## Seating

Seating in the Senate gallery and lobby shall be available to the public on a first come, first serve basis.

Select seating in the Senate gallery is reserved for media access. Proper pass or credentials must be shown to gain admission to the Senate gallery and lobby.

## Rules during impeachment hearing

All persons seated in the Senate gallery and lobby shall abide by the following guidelines:

- No food, beverages, or gum;
- Mobile phones, PDAs and related electronic devices must be turned OFF (vibrate is not acceptable);
- No cameras;
- No electronic music devices or games;
- No talking, clapping or other demonstrations;

■ All persons shall remain seated at all times except during recess.

■ During recess, all persons except the Senate members and authorized persons, shall exit the Senate gallery.

## Tents

Tents may be set up outside the Senate in the designated concrete area near the parking lot of the Legislature upon request to the director of the Legislative Bureau.

A violation of any of the rules and guidelines will result in the immediate removal from the Senate gallery or lobby and bar readmittance for the remainder of that day of the impeachment hearing proceeding.



## Applications now being accepted for 2022 BRMC Scholarship

The Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for individuals from Micronesia to undertake either a master's or doctorate degree in any resource management/conservation field at various institutions within the Pacific region (including universities in Guam, Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, and Japan) or in the U.S. mainland.

The scholarship is open for application to citizens of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. The application can be found on the MCT's website: <http://www.ourmicronesia.org/brmc.html> The closing date is May 15, 2022.

Each year, up to two students from the region will be selected through a competitive process and will be eligible to receive up to \$30,000 per year for up to two years for the successful completion of a master's program and up to three years for the successful completion of a PhD program. This scholarship is limited to one or two students per scholarship-round in order to provide the mentorship and guidance support that will be required to ensure the students' long-term success.

Scholarship applicants are to focus on leadership and technical

skills and/or majors that enhance their ability to carry out work in conservation, climate adaptation and sustainable development in Micronesia.

Awardees of this prestigious scholarship will receive financial support to earn graduate degrees while receiving close guidance and mentorship from key individuals within the Micronesia Challenge partnership, including members of the peer learning networks, Micronesians in Island Conservation and the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community. The mentors/advisers are technical experts who have extensive experience in the fields of conservation, climate change adaptation and sustainable development in Micronesia/Pacific.

The BRMC Scholarship Fund committee will also make a good faith effort to place scholarship recipients in permanent positions when they graduate. To help ensure recipients are able to participate in Micronesia Challenge activities, either remotely or during breaks, awardees are required to study at universities within the Pacific region/rim or in the U.S. mainland and they must secure an agency that will commit to hosting them during their studies and one willing to hire the student as an intern after

they complete their studies.

To date, the BRMC has supported 19 students. Ten have graduated and are in leading positions in their own home islands across Micronesia.


The Micronesia Conservation Trust and its Micronesia Challenge partners established the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Fund to honor the legacy of the late Bill Raynor, founder of conservation in Micronesia.

For more information on the BRMC Scholarship Program, contact:

Bertha Reyuw  
MCT Capacity Building Program Manager  
P.O. Box 2177, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941  
Phone: (691) 350-2092/950-2151  
E-mail: [capacity@ourmicronesia.org](mailto:capacity@ourmicronesia.org)

For more information on the BRMC Scholarship Endowment, contact:

Willy Kostka  
MCT Executive Director  
P.O. Box 2177, Kolonia, Pohnpei FM 96941  
Phone: (691) 320-5670/8903  
E-mail: [director@ourmicronesia.org](mailto:director@ourmicronesia.org) (PR)



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB22-DPW-42200091**

**SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 04, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

**"CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JAMES A. ADA**  
SECRETARY, DPW

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR,  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

**TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC**

PO BOX 520800, TINIAN, MP 96952 | TEL. (670) 433-4427/4428 | FAX. (670) 433-4428

**TINIAN FUEL SERVICES, INC.**  
has an opening for:

**ACCOUNTING MANAGER (1)**

**Duties:** Analyze financial information and prepare financial reports to determine or maintain record of assets, liabilities, profit and loss, tax liability, or other financial activities within the organization.

**Qualifications:** Four-year bachelor's degree major in accounting. A considerable amount of work-related skills, knowledge and work several years in accounting. Need several years of work-related experience. Required college diploma, transcript of records and computer skills (Microsoft Office & accounting software)

**Worksite Location:** San Jose Village, Tinian; Salary: \$31,824 to \$47,736 / annually; Work Hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm; Frequency of Pay: Semi-Monthly; Deductions: All applicable CNMI and Federal Taxes; Benefits: Worker's Compensation is provided.

**Closing Date:** April 22, 2022

Applicants may submit their resume personally (walk-in) at our office located in San Jose Village, Tinian Tel No.: (670) 433-4428 or by emailing us their resume at [tinianfuel@yahoo.com](mailto:tinianfuel@yahoo.com). Applicants may apply during weekdays only, Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm, excluding national holidays.

# FREE and as amazing as ever

Experience iPhone 12 and UNLIMITED data.



**iPhone 12**

**FREE** | **\$80/MO UNLIMITED**

[ite.net](https://ite.net)
[itecnmi](https://itecnmi)
[itecnmi](https://itecnmi)

Terms and conditions apply. Advertised pricing available on the \$80 Unlimited Plan on a 24-month contract. Subject to credit check. Colors subject to availability. Visit [ite.net](https://ite.net) or see stores for details.






# UOG to host degree programs info session on Saipan

Saipan residents interested in learning more about degree programs available through the University of Guam are invited to a special information session this Thursday, April 21, at Mango Six Café, from 5pm to 7:30pm.

Degree programs to be discussed include the Crimi-

nal Justice 3+1 Program—in which students complete three years of coursework at Northern Marianas College and one year through UOG while residing on Saipan—and the Master of Public Administration program, which would also be completed while residing on Saipan.

Information on other UOG degree programs will be provided as well.

The event is free to attend. Register at [url.uog.edu/saipan-info-session](http://url.uog.edu/saipan-info-session). For more information, contact UOG Global Learning & Engagement office at (671) 735-2600 or [uog.gle@triton.uog.edu](mailto:uog.gle@triton.uog.edu). (**UOG**)

## Local student makes honor roll at OSU

**CORVALLIS, Ore.**—Robert Lawrence B. Deleon Guerrero, who is a senior student at Oregon State University, has made it to the university's scholastic honor roll winter 2022.



**Oregon State University**

Deleon Guerrero, who is from Saipan and is taking up Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University, was one 7,732 students who earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the honor roll, students must

carry at least 12 graded hours of course work.

As one of only three universities in the nation designated as a land, sea, space and sun grant institution, Oregon State serves Oregon and the world. Its more than 34,000 students come from across the globe. (**PR**)

## Water service interruptions in Garapan

There will be scheduled water service interruptions on April 19 and 20, 2022, from 8am. to 4pm. for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in China Town along Husga Avenue, Chalan Pale Arnold, Sugar King Road, Upper MIHA and Sugar King Estate.

The scheduled water service interruptions are required by the CUC China town Waterline Replacement Project contractor to connect the new water main to the existing waterline infrastructure on Sugar King Road. The work

is needed to transition the water system from the old waterline to the newly installed PVC waterline. Multiple tapping points are designed for this project to provide sufficient and beneficial water services. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after the connection.

The China Town Waterline Replacement Project will provide a more reliable water system to the people of the CNMI. It is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The newly installed distribution line

will be commissioned after passing the required testing and disinfection procedures. Please expect water disruptions during the transition phase from the old water system to the newly installed PVC waterline.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (**PR**)



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
[www.cnmiports.com](http://www.cnmiports.com)

## AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES 1, 4 AND 5 REPLACEMENT AND ISOLATED SPALL REPAIRS TO PCC PAVEMENT AT GATES 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5, SAIPAN, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-20.**

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Passenger Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 Replacement and Isolated Spall Repairs to PCC Pavement at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-002-20" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 1, 4, and 5 with new apron-drive bridges and isolated spall repairs to PCC pavement at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract provides that the Contractor shall invoice for labor and materials for passenger boarding bridge replacement at Gate 1 separately from the invoice for passenger boarding bridges replacement at Gates 4 and 5 and spall repairs at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (which may be invoiced together).

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT (568) calendar days if awarded all three bridges**. Duration may adjust based on funding availability which will determine the number of bridges to be replaced.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible," their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A DVD containing the plans and specification, including the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-24 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: March 31, 2022



### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center



#### Public Service Announcement – Availability of Criminal Justice Grants

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Program include the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA), the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program and the Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). A brief description and amounts available for each award under individual programs are listed below. Please visit our office on Capitol Hill, Building 1315 for a more detailed explanation on eligibility requirements, program purpose areas, and the new application form. **All applicants must have a DUNS number and nonprofit agencies must have a 501 (c) (3) Federal Tax Exemption.**

#### Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) FY2021: \$194,475.00

The available funds can be implemented in the following purpose areas: Law Enforcement programs, Prosecution and Court programs, Prevention and Education programs, Corrections and Community Corrections programs, Drug Treatment and Enforcement programs; Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement programs; and Crime Victim and Witness programs (other than compensation).

#### Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance Formula Program: FY2021: \$339,975.00

- To comply with VOCA guidelines, funds made available through VOCA assistance program is intended for agencies that provide direct service to victims of crime. Funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to all victims of child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assaults.
- All applicants must show in their application how they will provide direct services to one or more of the crime victims mentioned above.
- New applicants must also show on their application that they have a history of providing direct services to crime victims and have other sources of funding to support the program to ensure continuity of services to victims.

#### Amounts Available:

Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse: \$299,975.00

Underserved Crime Victims: \$40,000.00

#### STOP Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Program(VAWA) FY2021: \$556,704.00

STOP-VAWA grant programs provide assistance for victims through protection and services that they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. In accordance with the STOP program requirements "CNMI Three Year Implementation Plan," STOP-VAWA grant funds are made available to support law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and the Superior Court in the CNMI.

Allotted agencies mentioned below must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals, objectives and activities will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs. In accordance with the CNMI Implementation Plan, these categories and/or agencies are allotted at least the following amounts based on the requirements percentages set by VAWA:

- Non Profit, Non-Governmental Victim Services:** Victim Services = \$129,155.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault purpose only = \$37,856.00. Total for Victim Services = \$167,011.00.
- Law Enforcement** \$115,516.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault purpose only = \$23,660.00. Total for Law Enforcement: \$139,176.00
- Prosecution** \$115,516.00; Programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault purpose only = \$23,660.00. Total for Prosecution \$139,176.00.
- Courts** \$18,371.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$9,464.00. Total for Courts \$27,835.00.
- Discretionary;** may be spent at the discretion of the state/territory to address statutory program areas. \$83,506.00

#### Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) FY2021: \$65,562.00

The Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP) created by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. Overall, the purpose of SASP is to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault, family and household members of victims, and those collaterally affected by the sexual assault. This grant is for Non Profit agencies that provide sexual assault services only.

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. Dates for the award process will be announced at a later date.

**All completed applications and required documents must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 P.M. Friday, April 22, 2022.**  
**No application will be accepted after the deadline.**

#### For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:


Completed applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by emailing [ztaimanao.cjpa@gmail.com](mailto:ztaimanao.cjpa@gmail.com), including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) sent in by fax will not be accepted.

For more information and for interested applicants, please contact CJPA at 664-4550/4551/4554/4556/4558 or stop by the office on Capitol Hill (Building #1315). Please indicate and specify which grant and year you are applying for on the application. If necessary, please call the CJPA Office at 664-4550.

/s/ Hon. Alexandro C. Castro  
Chairman, Supervisory Council


/s/ Zerlyn A. Taimanao  
Executive Director, CJPA





## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL CUC-RAESP-22-019

#### A&E Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection the for Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade (W21-081)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection of the Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade in Papago Drive, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.*

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope** marked “CUC-RAESP-22-019, A&E Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection for Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2022. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email [larry.manacop@cucgov.org](mailto:larry.manacop@cucgov.org); Dennis Formalejo, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email [dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org](mailto:dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org) and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**  
Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLON**  
Purchasing Administrator



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131



**Job Vacancy Announcement**

**JVA No. 22-059**

**Opening Date: 04/14/2022  
Closing Date: 04/28/2022**

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	Human Resources Technician
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	COA/Human Resources
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
<b>ANNUAL SALARY:</b>	\$20,826.00 - \$28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
<b>CONTRACT:</b>	Not Contracted
<b>POSITION(S):</b>	One (1)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) is seeking for a qualified Human Resources Technician. Under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee the responsibilities will be as follows:

**Duties:**

- Provides administrative and technical support tasks for daily Human Resource operational functions; provides administrative assistance with benefits, training, payroll and recruiting activities, information tracking and documentation.
- Receives processes and verifies forms and completion of required information; enters and maintains Human Resource information systems data, files and records; maintains confidential personnel files and records.
- Assists employees and the public by providing information related to HR processes and procedures; retrieves and reviews data and resources to provide response to inquiries; or, refer inquiries or requests to appropriate resource.
- Performs research and verifies information; performs calculations; processes timekeeping information; compiles and maintains data for audit purposes.
- May process job vacancy announcements and assist in employment interview.
- Prepares forms and reports; drafts correspondence and templates; assists with gathering, documenting and maintaining information for programs, projects, training, recruitment, benefits or other areas.
- Assists management with special projects, information tracking and reporting.
- Monitors supply needs and prepare requests for replacement or acquisition; monitors equipment maintenance requirements and schedules services as required.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:**  
Successful candidates for the position must have the following:

**Education:** High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and 2 years of human resource or legal office experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Human Resource principles and practices; Program administration principles; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Research methods; Database and records management principles; Modern office technology. **Skill In:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Administering and monitoring programs, policies and processes; Coordinating the implementation of human resource services; Researching and analyzing program-related data and resource information; Providing customer service; Interpreting policies and providing relevant information and guidance; Prioritizing work in order to meet time-sensitive program deadlines; Tracking and auditing data, forms, records and documentation; Preparing reports, correspondence, and program support materials; Updating and maintaining information systems and confidential records; Coordinating and assisting with projects; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

**Licensing:**

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.


**Physical Demands:**

- Occasional lifting of objects, Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.


All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org)

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131  
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### RE-ANNOUNCEMENT JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**JVA No. 22 – 055**

**Opening Date: April 14, 2022  
Closing Date: April 28, 2022**

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	Fiscal Administrator
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	CFO/Accounting
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
<b>ANNUAL SALARY:</b>	\$42,411.00 - \$57, 255.00 per annum, Exempt
<b>CONTRACT:</b>	Contracted
<b>POSITION(S):</b>	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the CFO/Accounting Division.

**Duties:**

- The Fiscal Administrator may lead and/or supervise staff to include prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Maintains, monitors and balances assigned funds.
- Performs professional accounting duties, including but not limited to: project accounting, grants reporting and management.
- Public Utilities Commission (PUC) compliance reporting; utility rate case data analysis and reporting, general journal entry preparation and posting/analyzing accounts; assisting with annual audits including preparation of audit schedules.
- Prepares, reviews, and submits a variety of reports, reconciliations, and statements to and from internal departments, financial institutions, and/or Local, State, and Federal agencies.
- Performs month-end and year-end closing of books of accounts;
- Prepares analyses of inventory and participates in periodic physical inventories. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:**  
**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and 4 years of professional level experience related to area of assignment.  
**Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances. Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Generally accepted accounting principles; Financial analysis principles and techniques; Advanced mathematical concepts; Research methods; Customer service principles; Modern office technology.  
**Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and other applicable standards. Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Providing guidance and leading work activities (based on assignment); Prioritizing activities and meeting deadlines; Preparing financial information, adjustments and entries related to general ledger; Researching, compiling, calculating and reconciling data and information; Researching technical issues, solving problems and providing solutions; Monitoring and maintaining fiscal account information and reporting; Reconciling data, preparing adjustments and posting account and journal entries; Providing attention to accuracy and detail; Preparing reports, correspondence and related fiscal documentation; Providing customer services; Providing technical guidance related to financial systems; Maintaining databases and financial records; Assisting with audits, inventory processes and/or equipment maintenance schedules; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org).

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131  
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131



**Job Vacancy Announcement**

**JVA No. 22-060**

**Opening Date: 04/14/2022  
Closing Date: 04/28/2022**

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	Trades Assistant
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Wastewater Division
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
<b>ANNUAL SALARY:</b>	\$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt
<b>CONTRACT:</b>	Not Contracted
<b>POSITION(S):</b>	Two(2)

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Wastewater Division.

**Duties:**

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples;
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:**  
**Education:** High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.  
**Knowledge of:** Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.  
**Skills in:** Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

**Licensing/Certification:**

- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: [employment.applications@cucgov.org](mailto:employment.applications@cucgov.org)

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131  
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



# Opinion

Hafa Adair!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 76

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## A prudent call on air travel masking

A resigned sigh is the adult response to this week's announcement that air travelers must continue donning face masks amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

What's not welcome: entitled bellyaching. Continued masking is a minor inconvenience as leisure and business travelers return, especially for the shorter flights domestic travel involves. Just deal with it like a grown-up. Any complaints should be stuffed into the overhead bin next to carry-on luggage instead of being hurled at flight crews.

On Wednesday, federal officials announced a two-week extension of the mask requirement for travelers on "planes, trains and in transit hubs." That requirement previously had been set to expire on Monday but will remain in place at least through May 3.

As much as everyone wants this pandemic to be over, it clearly isn't. The continued mask requirement sensibly reflects this reality, though the two-week extension may be overly optimistic.

As of this week, more than 500 Americans are still dying each day on average after infection with COVID-19, according to the New York Times COVID tracker. That's down 26% over the previous 14 days, but nevertheless is an appalling number.

A comparison of the current COVID-19 death count to that from a recent severe influenza season offers chilling perspective. The flu virus often arrives with winter weather. In the 2017-18 flu season, an estimated 61,000 Americans died after contracting the virus, far outpacing any year in that decade.

That works out to a 167 deaths a day on average. Now consider the same stat for COVID-19: 533 deaths daily. COVID-19 may now be a familiar foe as the pandemic enters its third year, but it remains a serious health threat.

News reports from the United Kingdom underscore this. New, more transmissible COVID-19 variants are circulating. Cases spiked in the U.K. in mid-March. Employee infections contributed to flight disruptions and airport security backups.

What happens in Britain often foreshadows COVID-19's U.S. course. This week, Philadelphia announced that it will reinstate its indoor mask requirement with cases at low levels but rising. Another red flag: a COVID-19 outbreak affecting U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and others who attended a recent high-profile dinner in Washington, D.C.

Leaving the mask requirement in place for travelers, particularly air travelers, is a reasonable and targeted alternative to reinstating broader mitigation measures. People from around the world sit in confined indoor spaces on board, on jetways and at gates. Then they disburse into the community shortly. These conditions can turn a regional outbreak into a global threat.

Other objections to be dismissed:

■ Planes filter the air. True. But filtration might not be effective in the jetway, ticket counter or baggage carousel. And by now, the hazards of relying on a sole solution

See **PRUDENT** on Next Page



## A Nobel solution to Putin's Ukraine horror

Day and night, images that are unwatchable yet unforgettable pour out of the great news funnels all around the planet.

The images bring a flood of anguish into the lives of people who cannot bear looking at the horrific slaughter and inhumane cruelty that a superpower is inflicting upon its much smaller neighbor.

But these same people also cannot bear looking away. So they watch the blatant and undeniable war crimes that Russia's military is inflicting upon Ukrainian innocents. They witness the Nazi-like cruelty of Vladimir Putin's forces as they targeted and destroyed apartment buildings, schools, hospitals, fleeing families in train stations and fearful families in shelters that are now rubble.

And as they watch, viewers everywhere are thinking just what you are thinking: Why can't our leaders do more to make them stop?

But very few around our planet (and probably not even you!) are thinking about the one organization that was created 76 years ago to mobilize a world of leaders to try to resolve, or at least reduce, this kind of crisis.

Were you really thinking about the United Nations? (Or do you think of the U.N. as an outmoded relic?) Were you really about to ask if the leader of the United Nations can do something to maybe give peace a chance in shattered Ukraine?

Probably not. You probably can't remember the name of the United Nations' secretary general. Not your fault; he's not been in the news much. Google reports his name was in a New York Times article just once this month, twice last month, three times in February, zero in January. At the start of this 21st century, you'd have known well the name of the U.N.'s activist Secretary General Kofi Annan. In the Eisenhower Era, you'd have known all about Dag Hammarskjöld.

But read on. There is something innovative the United Nations can and should be doing to inject a jolt of innovative persuasion into our era of stagnant old-school diplomacy. The U.N. can spotlight how Putin has used his own Big Lie to con fellow Russians into accepting his Hitlerian compulsion to crush Ukraine. Starting with his whopper that Volodymyr Zelenskyy's government is a bunch of neo-Nazis. (And yes, Putin learned his Big Lie move from watching how Donald Trump shamelessly deceived his voter base with his firehose of big lies that he really won reelection.)

Putin's state media won't show Russians the abhorrent reality of images all the world has been watching since he said he wouldn't invade Ukraine and then invaded Ukraine. Putin's polls are soaring. Moscow's Levada Center, an independent public opinion organization, shows Putin's approval rating climbed

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**  
Tribune News Service

*Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.*



from 67% last October to 83% on March 20.

But wait! Polls in a dictatorship may not provide a paint-by-the-numbers picture of what people really think. Levada's methodology, according to its website, was to interview 1,626 Russians in person, in their homes. Hmmm. Imagine you are an ordinary Russian in Putin's dictatorship where journalists can be jailed for calling Putin's Ukraine war a war. A stranger at the door is asking if you approve of Putin's policies and writing down your answers. Your responses may merely reflect your desire to remain free.

This is where we now need the help of an activist U.N. secretary general. He is in a perfect position to mobilize a virtual video initiative featuring a cross-section of world leaders, appearing in person or virtually, in a special General Assembly session, reading a few sentences to narrate a diplomatically unique video.

"A WORLD OF TRUTH: Global Leaders Reach Out to Russia's Families" can spotlight for ordinary Russians the images of the war crime horrors all the world has been watching for the past 50 days of Putin's invasion and shattering of Ukraine. Those images have become the world's window into the shame that is Putin's Russia today.

In addition to famous presidents and prime ministers, the U.N. secretary general may also want to recruit some of the world's religious leaders – the pope, of course. But he can also invite the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church. The video can end with the world's leaders telling Russians that the world needs Russia to return to the moral values we all always shared, as allies when we defeated the actual Nazis.

Finally, the U.N. secretary general needs to mount a massive media effort to give Russians every chance to see this event somewhere, in which the world is speaking to them. Keep the video streaming, via YouTube, social media and all other resources of the global internet.

And if our innovative persuasion project is accomplished, you will never forget the name of our next Nobel Peace Prize laureate, U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres, of Portugal.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# China's surge proves the folly of trying to achieve 'zero-COVID-19'

By CORY FRANKLIN AND ROBERT A. WEINSTEIN  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

From the outset, mystery has shrouded the COVID-19 pandemic in China. The origin of the virus remains unknown, important Chinese journalists and key scientists have been muted, and case and death totals reported by China's government have been unbelievably low—the United States and most of Western Europe have reported 500 to 1,000 times as many per capita deaths as China.

There are several theories on the reason for the low numbers coming out of China: poor reporting, deliberate or otherwise; a population with immunity, either natural or acquired through previous coronavirus infections; or the Chinese government's efforts to reach zero COVID-19 infections through mass testing, lockdowns, quarantine and contact tracing. China is the last major country attempting to eliminate COVID-19; other countries have tried with disappointing, and in some cases disastrous, results.

But now the Chinese zero-COVID-19 policy has been put to the test by the highly infectious omicron variant and subvariant. The focal point is the tight government lockdown in China's largest city, Shanghai. Reports emanating from Shanghai are harrowing. People are prevented from leaving their homes for any reason—they are dependent on the government to deliver medications, food and water. Parents who test positive are sent to isolation centers, separated from their children. Cats and dogs left homeless when their owners are sent away are being killed by public health authorities. Businesses are closing, and there are reports of people scavenging food and committing suicide.

According to the BBC, centralized "isolation facilities—many using only camp beds, with no showers or other facilities—are bursting with infected people squashed in next to one another. One of China's few reliable media outlets, Caixin, has reported that close contacts of infected people will be moved to neighbouring provinces. This could potentially involve hundreds of thousands of Shanghai residents."

Even with these measures, Shanghai is reporting more than 10,000 new cases per day, and things may worsen because China's vaccine, a non-mRNA one, appears to be less effective than Western vaccines.

While China clings to its zero-COVID-19 approach, other



countries have abandoned it in the face of the omicron surge. South Korea, which was praised internationally for its control measures after an initial surge, was overwhelmed by omicron and now ranks eighth in worldwide cases, a higher per capita case rate than the U.S. New Zealand, an island country, that as of February had recorded fewer than 30,000 cases over the first two years of the pandemic, now has seen 800,000 cases total. Hong Kong, with only 200 total deaths during the pandemic at the beginning of the year, had the highest per capita death rate in the world in March.

Why has a zero-COVID-19 policy proved unattainable? Control of COVID-19 poses different problems from previous epidemics. The virus is evolving and mutating at a surprisingly rapid rate, and the current variants present a greater risk of person-to-person transmission. But the real sticking point has been extensive transmission in the community by infected people who are asymptomatic.

This feature of COVID-19 has complicated the pandemic from the beginning. It makes it problematic to know whom to test and whom to isolate.

Contact tracing, a basic public health tool used successfully for previous communicable diseases—especially those sexually transmitted—is basically impossible. Contact tracing works when symptomatic patients seek care, enter the public health surveillance tracking system and identify their contacts. Those exposed to contagious individuals are then located and advised about quarantine, testing and treatment options. But millions of dollars and a lot of personnel have been ineffective in tracing COVID-19 when asymptomatic patients are unaware they should be tested or fail to report a positive if they test at home. The contacts of those infected are often unknown, especially when the virus is spread in crowded indoor locations.

South Korea employed the most extensive contact tracing system in the world but abandoned it recently in the face of the omicron surge. Jang Young-ook, a researcher at the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy

studying pandemic response policies around the world, said, "The size of the surge Korea is seeing now renders contact tracing almost pointless. That makes collecting personal information with QR (computerized personal) codes kind of unjustified."

This is basically an admission that zero COVID-19 is a pipe dream, a lesson the residents of Shanghai are learning the hard way.

When the definitive history is written about the COVID-19 pandemic of the early 2020s, an essential chapter will be the futile quest for zero COVID-19. It will be symbolized by a drone hovering over deserted Shanghai streets, blaring the disheartening epitaph for zero COVID-19 that China has been broadcasting to its people: "Please comply with COVID restrictions. Control your soul's desire for freedom. Do not open the window or sing."

*Dr. Cory Franklin is a retired intensive care physician. Dr. Robert A. Weinstein is an infectious disease specialist at Rush University Medical Center.*

## April is National Poetry Month

*Happy birthday to William Shakespeare (04/23/1564) and to Maya Angelou (04/04/1928)*

Two famous Irish poets share the same April birthdate, April 13,

### PRUDENT

From Page 8

against COVID-19 should be clear. A layered approach is vital. That includes filters but also vaccines, masks and good hygiene.

■ But I'm vaccinated. The vaccine is indeed the most potent weapon against COVID-19, but its effectiveness against infection can wane over time or against variants, even as it continues to protect against severe illness. The vaccine also isn't available yet for travelers 5 and younger. Masks help protect them and those who are immunocompromised.

■ heard that masks don't work. Nothing is 100% effective, but masks can dramatically decrease COVID-19's spread. One large recent study involved 1.1 million schoolchildren in nine states. It found that schools where masking was mandatory "during the delta surge had approximately 72% fewer cases of in-school transmission of SARS-CoV-2 when compared to schools with optional or partial masking policies."

Alarming evidence is also accruing about COVID-19's lingering consequences. In February, the prestigious *Nature* journal reported that "Heart-disease soars after COVID—even with a mild case." A large study published in the same journal in late March found that a COVID-19 infection can increase the risk of diabetes for up to a year after.

Masking protects you and those around you. Extending the mask requirement for air travelers—at least temporarily—was the right call.

and both of them received a Nobel Prize for Literature. Samuel Beckett was born April 13, 1906, died Dec. 22, 1989, and received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969.

Seamus Heaney was born March 13, 1939, and died Aug. 30, 2013. The Nobel Prize in Literature 1995 was awarded to Seamus Heaney "for works of lyrical beauty and ethical depth, which exalt everyday miracles and the living past."

Two living Irish poets: Michael Higgins born April 18, 1941, is currently serving his second term as the president of Ireland. Gabriel Rosenstock, born April 29, 1949, writes and translates in Gaelic and English languages. Gabriel is a poet, playwright, haikuist, tankaist, essayist, and author of over 180 books mostly in Gaelic. He is also a friend of mine and lives in Dublin, Ireland. All these poets have written other forms of literature and taught poetry at various times in their careers. Please check out their poetic works if you have not done so.

The following first appeared in the *Saipan Tribune* on April 23, 2018. It contains Shakespeare's original Sonnet #130 and a parody of it written by me. Enjoy!

### Sonnet #130

By William Shakespeare

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;  
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;  
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;  
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head;  
I have seen roses damasked, red and white,  
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;  
And in some perfumes is there more delight  
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks  
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know  
That music hath a far more pleasing sound.

### LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.*



I grant I never saw a goddess go;  
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.  
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare  
As any she belied with false compare.

### 'My Tax Returns Will Never See'

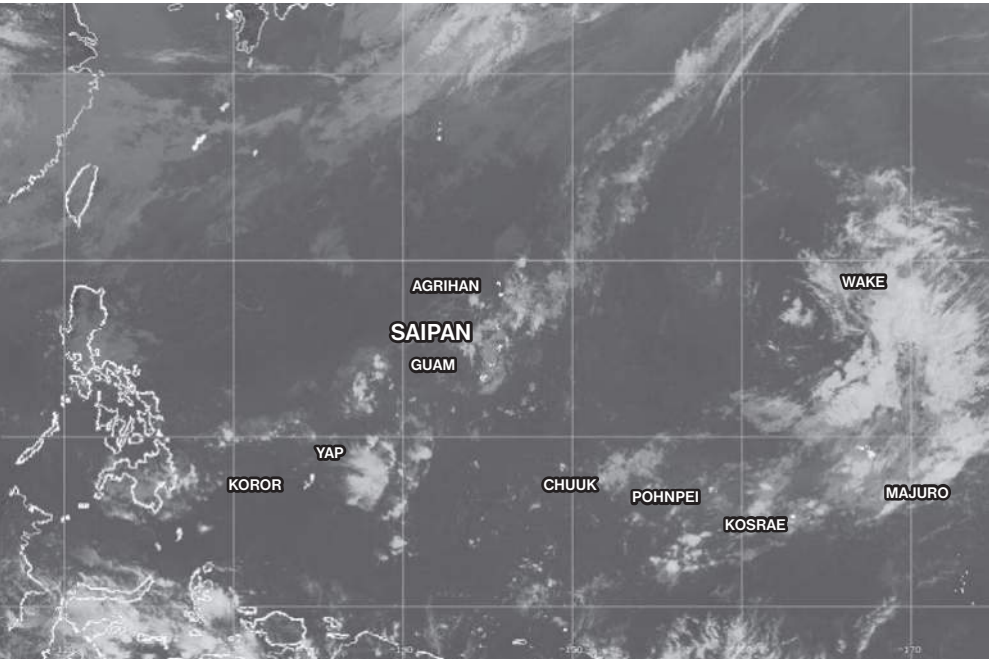
Parody by J.B. Connolly

My tax returns will never see the light of day  
I dread not rubles or ties with Russian red  
my money stashed in Wall St. every which way  
its whereabouts known only inside my dyed head  
I have rubles galore unmasked Russian red and white  
haven't seen any in my accounts for months and weeks  
I'll have to have an oligarch over for drinks tonight  
give him some old Trump vodka and see if he leaks  
I'll roll my rubles over in some small Swiss bourse  
time to lay low stop contacting my Russian oligarchs  
now time for a few rounds on my Mar A Lago course  
greenback leisure for us mighty plutocratic monarchs.  
Yes, my friend Vladimir Putin thinks my brain is 'rare'  
as usual only with himself does he care to compare.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Mostly sunny, with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy, with isolated showers.		Mostly sunny, with isolated showers.		Mostly sunny, with isolated showers.		Partly sunny, with scattered showers.	
85°	77°	87°	76°	87°	77°	88°	76°	88°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:56 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery showed scattered showers over the local area. South to southeast winds prevail over the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp)and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	29 / 25 °F	
Yap	AM Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 25 °F	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	30 / 27 °F	
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:01 AM	18:31 PM
Tuesday	06:00 AM	18:32 PM
Wednesday	06:00 AM	18:32 PM
Thursday	05:59 AM	18:32 PM
Friday	05:58 AM	18:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	06:56 PM	20:02 PM
Tuesday	-	07:45 PM	21:06 PM
Wednesday	-	08:38 PM	22:11 PM
Thursday	-	09:37 PM	23:16 PM
Friday	-	10:40 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Light Rain/Wind	20 / 17 °F	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	25 / 8 °F	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	25 / 19 °F	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	27 / 22 °F	
London	Partly Cloudy	18 / 7 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	25 / 12 °F	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	34 / 26 °F	
Melbourne	Light Rain	18 / 13 °F	
Miami	Rain	27 / 22 °F	
New York	Showers	12 / 8 °F	
Osaka	Showers	17 / 11 °F	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	20 / 8 °F	
Busan	Cloudy	18 / 11 °F	
Rome	Mostly Sun	20 / 8 °F	
Salem	AM Showers	20 / 9 °F	
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	16 / 10 °F	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	21 / 6 °F	
Tokyo	Showers	19 / 11 °F	
Washington, DC	PM Showers	13 / 6 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
02:35 AM	Low Tide	0.79	
08:06 AM	High Tide	2.00	
2:58 PM	Low Tide	-0.09	
9:31 PM	High Tide	2.02	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:40AM	7:20AM	1, 3, 5	UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 5
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 6, 7	UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	6, 7
				UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:35AM	8:35AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	R110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
UA117/183	6:40AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 5 via Guam	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/193	6:40AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
RS112	3:15PM	7:00PM	3, 6	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7	UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3	RS111	8:15AM	1:35PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7	TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
				OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO GUAM				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$234. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-8747 or 235-2440. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)



# OES inducts new members of elementary honor society



Oleai Elementary School presents the eight new members of the Turtle Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oleai Elementary School inducted last April 8 at the school's cafeteria eight new members of the Turtle Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society.

The eight new officers and members, consisting of the school's 4th and 5th graders, are Alexander Joseph M. Salundaguit (president), Hanna Marie P. Padolina (vice president), Isabel Maximina I. Carreon (secretary), Alanah Ikloi H. Aughenbaugh (historian), Lysander Vince P. Domingo (treasurer), and members Kameron Saramalpi R. Iguel, Hannah Gabrielle R. Ramos, and Brent Ryle B. Villanueva.

The ceremony's keynote speaker was Irieyana Aughenbaugh, who is one of the

outstanding OESI alumni, and also served as president of NEHS Turtle chapter. Aughenbaugh, who also served as vice president and president of the school's Student Council, reminded the inductees: "Each of you have different goals in life. What comes easy to one may be difficult for another. So remember to encourage and lift each other up so that you may continue to reach your full potential. Like mother Theresa said, 'Life is a promise; fulfill it.' I congratulate you for this honor. You truly are the best of the best."

OES principal Jasylene Parico recognized the eight inductees as the "Amazing Eight." She said, "Despite the challenges over the past years, you were all resilient,

strong, and continued to grow. So don't stop there, continue to grow to become a better person, a role model to others, and of service to your community."

The school's administrators and teachers, as well as the students' parents and family members, cheered on these talented students as they were honored for their academic and service achievements.

The NEHS is a prestigious program that recognizes the achievement of children and involvement through leadership development and services activities. Students in the 4th to 5th grade apply and are chosen based on the four pillars: leadership, service, responsibility, and character.

To be eligible for member-

ship consideration, students must have earned all 3's and 4's grade average from this year and previous years, should be on grade level for both STAR Reading and STAR Math assessments,

completed an application form outlining their leadership, service, and responsibility achievements, and received recommendations from their teachers.

Student applications were

reviewed by N EHS Faculty Council Bertha Orsini, Sherwin Mendiola, Ernestina Agulto, and Tricia Taitano. The OES NEHS advisers are Alberta Aldan, Barbara Agunon, and Mario Alo. **(PR)**



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Tels: (670) 233-9447  
233-9448  
233-9449  
233-9450  
Fax: (670) 234-9451

### AVAILABILITY OF THE HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND (HAF) PROGRAM

March 31, 2022

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) announces the availability of the Homeowner Assistance Fund Program made possible through the US Department of Treasury. The CNMI was allocated a total amount of **\$4,158,268** in HAF funds, of which approximately 10% or \$400,000 will be used for administrative expenses and approximately 90% or \$3,758,268, will be used for the following types of assistance for CNMI **homeowners**:

- 1) Mortgage delinquency assistance- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$25,400 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
- 2) Mortgage payment assistance- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$20,400 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
- 3) Past due and/or annual home-related insurance premiums- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$1,716 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
- 4) Utilities/Broadband Assistance:
  - a. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$6,000 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquencies in utility payments)
  - b. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$1,500 (not to exceed a period of 90 days) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to assist with future utility payments)
  - c. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$600 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquency in broadband service payments)
  - d. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$150 (not to exceed a period of 90 days) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to assist with future broadband service payments)

#### Eligibility Criteria

##### Eligible Homeowners:

- Must be a resident of the CNMI
- Must meet the income limit: less than or equal to 150% area median income or less than the median income of the United States, whichever is greater (See income limits below)
- Must show proof of experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020, including a hardship that begun before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date
- Must show proof of mortgage delinquency (must be at least month delinquent) (for mortgage delinquency assistance)
- For those seeking insurance arrears assistance: Must show proof of insurance arrears (must be at least one month in arrears)
- Homeowner is at least one installment payment in arrears on one or more of the following: utilities, such as electric, gas, home energy, and water OR internet service, including broadband internet access service
- Statement of current inability to resume mortgage payments due to unemployment, underemployment or other continuing hardship
- Statement of current ability to resume any required regular payments after account is reinstated (OR) Ability to resume any required regular payments


#### Income Limits

FY 2021 HAF Income Limits Summary for Northern Mariana Islands								
	1-Person	2-Person	3-Person	4-Person	5-Person	6-Person	7-Person	8-Person
Greater of 100% AMI or 100% U.S. Median Income	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900
Greater of 150% AMI or 100% of U.S. Median Income	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$85,050	\$90,500

The pre-application for the HAF Program will be available, starting Thursday, March 31, 2022, at the NMHC Main Office in Garapan, Saipan and the Tinian and Rota Field Offices. The pre-application will also be available online on NMHC's website, [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) (Public Notice/Announcements->Homeowner Assistance Fund Plan). Those who are interested in reviewing the HAF Plan and details of the program's terms can also visit the NMHC website. The application process will be ongoing until a notice is issued by NMHC and will be on a first come, first serve basis. Applications will only be accepted at the NMHC main and field offices. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director at (670) 234-6866


/s/  
Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

**"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"**



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION TO BID

#### CUC-IFB-22-025

#### SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-025, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 2:00 PM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 28, 2022.** Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 20, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Administrative Technician, Senior at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY CAMACHO**  
Acting Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Officer



# Nation

## Police arrest suspect in South Carolina mall shooting

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Police have arrested a suspect in connection with a shooting at a busy shopping mall in South Carolina's capital on Saturday that left 14 people injured.

Columbia Police Chief W.H. "Skip" Holbrook said 22-year-old Jawayne M. Price, who was one of three people initially detained by law enforcement as a person of interest, remains in police custody and is expected to be charged with unlawful carrying of a pistol.

It is not immediately known if Price has an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

Fourteen people were injured during the shooting at Columbiana Centre, Holbrook said in a news release Saturday. The victims ranged in age from 15 to 73.

Holbrook said no fatalities have been reported but that nine people were shot and five people suffered injuries while attempting to flee the mall for safety.



Authorities stage outside Columbiana Centre mall in Columbia, S.C., following a shooting, Saturday, April 16, 2022.

Police said the 73-year-old victim continues to receive medical treatment, but the other victims have been released from local hospitals or will be released shortly.

"We don't believe this was random," Holbrook said. "We believe they knew each other and something led to the gunfire."

Investigators believe that at

least three suspects displayed firearms inside the mall but are working to determine how many suspects fired weapons. Police said at least one firearm was seized.

Daniel Johnson said he and his family were visiting from Alabama and were eating in the food court when they first heard shots ring out and start-

ed seeing people running.

Johnson said people were screaming for their children and spouses, knocking over tables in the food court as they fled.

"Everybody was trying to get outside," Johnson said. "When I was coming out, you could see baby strollers turned over, people's phones and left keys. It was kind of a hectic situation."

Johnson said he gathered his wife, daughter and son and began heading toward the exit after letting the crowd clear out for a bit.

"My biggest thing was—and not to sound selfish—was to make sure that our family was OK and to get them out safely because this is not something that we love to do for Easter weekend."

Heavy police presence continued in the area hours after the shooting, though officers began letting more traffic through the streets surrounding the shopping centers and

strip malls that are usually packed on weekends. Officers were also stationed outside a nearby hotel designated as a reunification area for people at the scene of the shooting and their families.

Workers from a couple of stores remained clustered in the mostly empty parking lot Saturday evening, waiting for police to let them back inside to retrieve their car keys and personal belongings so they could leave. They said they did not hear or see anything

during the shooting but followed the mall's alert system and were evacuated by police shortly after. They declined to give their names, citing company policies.

"Today's isolated, senseless act of violence is extremely upsetting and our thoughts are with everyone impacted," Columbiana Centre said in a statement. "We are grateful for the quick response and continued support of our security team and our partners in law enforcement."

## For many, Easter Sunday marks a return to in-person worship

BOSTON (AP)—For many U.S. Christians, this weekend marks the first time since 2019 that they will gather in person on Easter Sunday, a welcome chance to celebrate one of the year's holiest days side by side with fellow congregants.

The pandemic erupted in the country in March 2020, just ahead of Easter, forcing many churches to resort to online or televised worship. Many continued to hold virtual services last spring after a deadly winter wave of the coronavirus and as vaccination campaigns were still ramping up. But this year more churches are opening their doors for Easter services with few COVID-19 restrictions, in line with broader societal trends.

Among them are Catholic parishes in the Archdiocese of

Boston, which since last June has once again required most churchgoers to attend Mass in person—though those with health risks may still watch remotely, and pastors have been asked to make space for social distancing in churches.

MC Sullivan, chief health care ethicist for the archdiocese, said celebrating Mass communally is important to how Catholics profess their faith. Church attendance has been trending upward, and parishioners are excited to gather again to commemorate Christ's resurrection.

"It has been quite wonderful to see how well-attended Mass is right now. ... It seems to have brought a lot of people back to the idea of what's important to them," she said.

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### ONE (1) ELECTRICIAN

##### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Plan layout and installation of electrical wiring, equipment or fixtures based on job specifications and local codes. Inspect electrical systems, equipment or components to identify hazards, defects or the need for adjustment or repair and to ensure compliance with codes. Test electrical systems or continuity of circuits in electrical wiring, equipment or fixtures using testing devices to ensure compatibility and safety of system. Connect wires to circuit breakers, transformers or other components. Conducts routine maintenance and testing on buildings and batching plant electrical systems and ensure installations are to manufacturer standards. Assess the parts needed for a job and place orders for those parts.

##### QUALIFICATION:

- Must have knowledge in using testing devices such as ohmmeters and voltmeters.
- Must have minimum 24 months work experience as an Electrician.

Interested individuals please send your Resume, Certifications and Valid ID to:

FPA Pacific Corp  
P.O. Box 520010, Tinian MP 96952  
Contact No. 670-433-0422 | Email: jlibut@hawaiianrock.com

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### ONE (1) MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WORKERS, GENERAL

##### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Inspects and identifies equipment or machines in need of repair. Troubleshoots issues to determine necessary repairs. Plans repair work using building blueprints or equipment manual as needed. Perform general repairs that do not require a specialized technician. May include repairing drywall, painting and repairing doors and other building fixtures. Perform routine maintenance on buildings. Cleans and assists with the upkeep of the facilities. Perform other related duties as assigned.

##### QUALIFICATION:

Ability to follow instructions from supervisors or senior maintenance workers. Knowledge of general carpentry and repair. Ability to use hand tools and power tools. Must have minimum 12 months of work experience.

Interested individuals please send your Resume, Certifications and Valid ID to:

FPA Pacific Corp  
P.O. Box 520010, Tinian MP 96952  
Contact No. 670-433-0422 | Email: jlibut@hawaiianrock.com

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### ONE (1) ACCOUNTANT

##### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Prepares and maintains cash receipts journal, cash disbursements journal, sales journal and journal entries. Supervise and assist accounting staff and person-in-charge in preparing payroll, payroll reports and statements, proper recording of production reports and proper functioning of inventory controls. Reconciles bank accounts. Prepares monthly, quarterly and annual tax returns. Operates computer programmed accounting system such as Great Plains and Quick Books. Perform other related duties that may be assigned from time to time.

##### QUALIFICATION:

- Bachelor's Degree, Accountancy or Banking and Finance
- 24 months experience as an Accountant
- Proficient in Microsoft Office and accounting software such as Quick Books and Great Plains

Interested individuals please send your Resume, Certifications and Valid ID to:

FPA Pacific Corp  
P.O. Box 520010, Tinian MP 96952  
Contact No. 670-433-0422 | Email: jlibut@hawaiianrock.com



### MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY INVITATION TO BID

#### GARAPAN AREA TRASH COLLECTION SERVICE MVA-ITB-22-2044

Submission/Closing Date:  
Submit sealed proposal to:

April 22, 2022 Time: 3:00PM (ChST)  
Marianas Visitors Authority  
Attn: Procurement Office  
San Jose Professional Building, Beach Rd., San Jose  
P.O. Box 500861, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the ITB package on or after March 23, 2022 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM-5:00PM (ChST), Monday through Friday, except holidays. ITB package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference "MVA-ITB-22-2044" on the subject line to lmaratita@mymarianas.com

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo  
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo  
Managing Director, MVA

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • PHONE: (670) 237-6500 • FAX: (670) 234-5962  
WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES AIR-SIDE

#### PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for grounds maintenance services of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning March 18, 2022.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Grounds Maintenance Services (Air-Side) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) Project No-CPA-RFP-004-22". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, APRIL 18, 2022, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

There will be no Pre-Proposal Conference but proposers will be allowed to do Site Visits by calling CPA Deputy Executive Director, Ed Mendiola at telephone numbers 237-6505 during working hours.

Written questions and/or clarifications regarding this project will be entertained up till April 11, 2022.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding this project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA, CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

March 14, 2022

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Crews fight New Mexico fires as some evacuations lift

RUIDOSO, N.M. (AP)—Authorities have lifted some evacuation orders for a mountain community in drought-stricken southern New Mexico as firefighters worked Saturday to contain a wind-driven blaze that killed two people and destroyed over 200 homes. The evacuation orders lifted late Friday covered about 60% of the estimated 4,500 people ordered to leave their homes since the fire started Tuesday. Village of Ruidoso spokesperson Kerry Gladden told The Associated Press on Saturday. Evacuation estimates were previously reported to be around 5,000 people. "The big story is we're in a re-population mode," Gladden said earlier during a media briefing. Those evacuation orders remaining in effect may be lifted in coming days, officials said.

#### Suit seeks to overturn renewed Philadelphia mask mandate

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Several businesses and residents have filed suit in state court in Pennsylvania seeking to overturn Philadelphia's renewed indoor mask mandate scheduled to be enforced beginning Monday in an effort to halt a surge in COVID-19 infections. The lawsuit, filed in Commonwealth Court on Saturday, said Philadelphia lacks the authority to impose such a mandate. Philadelphia earlier this week became the first major U.S. city to reinstate its indoor mask mandate after reporting a sharp increase in coronavirus infections, with the city's top health official saying she wanted to forestall a potential new wave driven by an omicron subvariant. Attorney Thomas W. King III, who was among those involved in last year's successful challenge to the statewide mask mandate in schools, said the city's emergency order went against recommendations of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and "imposed a renegade standard unfound anywhere else in the world."



# Asia

## PH storm death toll at 123

The death toll from landslides and floods in the Philippines rose to 123 on Wednesday with scores missing and feared dead, officials said, as rescuers dug up more bodies with bare hands and backhoes in crushed villages.

Most of the deaths from tropical storm Megi—the strongest to hit the archipelago this year—were in the central province of Leyte, where a series of landslides devastated communities.

Eighty-six of the casualties were in Baybay, a mountainous area in the province, where 236 people were also injured, the city government said in a report. Waves of sodden soil had smashed into farming settlements in Baybay city.

Twenty-six people died and about 150 were missing in the coastal village of Pilar, which is part of Abuyog municipality, after a torrent of mud and earth on Tuesday pushed houses into the sea and buried most of the settlement, authorities said.

“I have to be honest, we are no longer expecting survivors,” Abuyog mayor Lemuel Traya said, adding that emergency personnel were now focused on the difficult task of retrieving bodies.

About 250 people were in evacuation centers after being rescued by boat after roads were cut by landslides, he said. A number of villagers were also in hospital.

A rumbling sound like “a helicopter” alerted Ara Mae

Canuto, 22, to the landslide hurtling toward her family’s home in Pilar. She said she tried to outrun it but was swept into the water and nearly drowned.

“I swallowed dirt, and my ears and nose are full of mud,” Canuto said by phone from her hospital bed. Her father died and her mother has not been found.

Megi, which made landfall on Sunday with sustained winds of up to 65kph and gusts of up to 80kph, has since dissipated.

The disaster-prone region is regularly ravaged by storms—including a direct hit from Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—with scientists warning they are becoming more powerful as the world gets warmer because of human-driven climate change.

Aerial photos showed a wide stretch of mud that had swept down a hill of coconut trees and engulfed Bunga village, where only a few rooftops poked through the now-transformed landscape.

“We were told to be on alert because a storm was coming, but they did not directly tell us we needed to evacuate,” said Bunga farmworker Loderica Portarcos, 47, who lost 17 relatives and a friend in the landslide.

Portarcos braved heat and humidity as she advised a backhoe operator where to dig for three bodies still embedded in the soft soil, which had started to smell of rotting flesh.

“Our dead relatives are all in

the morgue, but there will be no time for a wake to mourn them because the mayor told us they smell bad,” she said.

Three people were also killed in the central province of Negros Oriental and three on the main southern island of Mindanao, according to the national disaster agency.

Black body bags containing 26 victims from Pilar were laid out on sand in Abuyog for relatives to identify on Wednesday.

The Abuyog police chief, Captain James Mark Ruiz, said more boats were needed, but getting access to the shore was difficult.

Photos posted by the Bureau of Fire Protection on Facebook showed buildings crushed or turned over by the force of the landslide and debris in the water.

“We’re using fiberglass boats, and there are steel bars exposed in the sea, so it’s very difficult,” Abuyog Mayor Traya said, adding that the ground was unstable and “very risky”.

While Pilar survivor Canuto counts herself lucky to be alive, she said “many of us died and a lot are missing, too”.

Pope Francis expressed solidarity with the victims, the Vatican said in a statement.

“He also offers the assurance of prayers for the dead, injured and displaced as well as those engaged in recovery efforts,” it said. “His Holiness willingly invokes upon all the Filipino people God’s blessings.”

### North Korea tests new weapon bolstering nuclear capability

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—North Korea has test-fired a new type of tactical guided weapon designed to boost its nuclear fighting capability, state media reported Sunday, a day before its chief rivals the United States and South Korea begin annual military drills that the North views as an invasion rehearsal. The test, the 13th round of weapons launches by Pyongyang this year, came amid concerns that North Korea may soon conduct a larger provocation like a nuclear test in an effort to expand the country’s weapons arsenal and increase pressure on Washington and Seoul amid stalled diplomacy. The official Korean Central News Agency said leader Kim Jong observed what it called the weapon’s successful launch. It released a photo showing a beaming Kim clapping his hands with military officers.

### Chinese astronauts land after 6 months on space station

**BEIJING** (AP)—Three Chinese astronauts returned to Earth on Saturday after six months aboard their country’s newest orbital station in the longest crewed mission to date for China’s ambitious space program. The Shenzhou 13 space capsule landed in the Gobi Desert in the northern region of Inner Mongolia, shown live on state TV. During the mission, astronaut Wang Yaping carried out the first spacewalk by a Chinese woman. Wang and crewmates Zhai Zhigang and Ye Guangfu beamed back physics lessons for high school students. China launched its first astronaut into space in 2003 and landed robot rovers on the moon in 2013 and on Mars last year. Officials have discussed a possible crewed mission to the moon. On Saturday, state TV showed images from inside the capsule as it traveled at 200 meters per second over Africa before entering the atmosphere.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

### 1 dead, 7 injured in explosion aboard tanker off Hong Kong

**HONG KONG** (AP)—One person was killed and seven others injured Saturday in an explosion aboard an oil tanker in waters off Hong Kong, authorities reported. The Hong Kong Maritime Rescue Coordination Center said the tanker was 300 kilometers (186 miles) east of Hong Kong when it caught fire as a result of an explosion. The fire was extinguished, according to state-run Radio Television Hong Kong. The Government Flying Service sent a fixed-wing aircraft and two helicopters with doctors aboard to the Panama-registered Chuang Yi vessel to transport the injured to a hospital in the city. One crew member was reported to have died and four others were in serious condition, RTHK reported. The cause of the explosion was not immediately clear.

# World

## Russia hits Ukraine’s big cities



Nadiya Trubchaninova, 70, cries while holding the coffin of her son Vadym, 48, who was killed by Russian soldiers last March 30 in Bucha, during his funeral in the cemetery of Mykulychi, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday, April 16, 2022.

**KYIV, Ukraine** (AP)—Russian forces renewed missile strikes on Kyiv and intensified shelling of Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, in an apparent strategy to hobble Ukraine’s defenses in preparation for what is expected to be a full-scale Russian assault in the east.

These attacks and others scattered across the country were an explosive reminder to Ukrainians and their Western supporters that the whole country remains under threat.

With the port city of Mariupol under siege, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia “is deliberately trying to destroy everyone who is there.” He said Ukraine needs more heavy weapons from the West immediately to have any chance of saving the city.

Each day brings new discoveries of civilian victims of an invasion that has shat-

tered European security. In the towns and villages just outside Kyiv, authorities have reported finding the bodies of more than 900 civilians, most shot dead, since Russian troops retreated two weeks ago.

After the humiliating loss of the flagship of its Black Sea Fleet, Russia’s military command vowed to step up missile strikes on the capital. The Russians said they hit an armored vehicle plant on Saturday, a day after targeting a missile plant.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko advised residents who fled the city earlier in the war not to return.

“We’re not ruling out further strikes on the capital,” he said. “If you have the opportunity to stay a little bit longer in the cities where it’s safer, do it.”

The mayor said Saturday’s strike killed one person and wounded several. It was not immediately clear from the

ground what was hit in the strike on Kyiv’s Darnytskyi district. The sprawling area on the southeastern edge of the capital contains a mixture of Soviet-style apartment blocks, newer shopping centers and big-box retail outlets, industrial areas and railyards.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said an armored vehicle plant was targeted. He didn’t specify where the factory was located, but there is one in the Darnytskyi district.

He said the plant was among multiple Ukrainian military sites hit with “air-launched high-precision long-range weapons.”

The Russian missiles hit the city just as residents were emerging for walks, foreign embassies planned to reopen and other tentative signs of the city’s prewar life started resurfacing, following the failure of Russian troops to capture Kyiv and their withdrawal.

## Israel police enter Jerusalem site, arrest 2

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Israeli police have entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a sensitive Jerusalem holy site, two days after clashes with Palestinians.

The police cleared Palestinians out of the sprawling esplanade outside the mosque itself early Sunday, while dozens of Palestinians remained inside the building chanting “God is Greatest.”

The police said they entered to facilitate the routine visit of Jews to the holy site. They said Palestinians had stockpiled stones and set up barriers in anticipation of violence. The police said they were committed to facilitating freedom of worship for Jews and Muslims.

But shortly afterward, Palestinians reported brief clash-

es with Israeli police, just outside the mosque compound. Palestinian medics said 10 people were wounded.

The site is the third holiest in Islam and the holiest for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount. It has long been a flashpoint for Israeli-Palestinian violence. Clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian demonstrators in Jerusalem last year erupted into an 11-day war between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

Police also said stone throwers had attacked buses in east Jerusalem near the Old City. A number of buses, which appeared to be carrying Jewish visitors, were damaged and police said some passengers were lightly hurt. It said they

arrested two suspects and were searching for others.

Clashes erupted at the site before dawn on Friday after police said Palestinians had hurled stones toward the Western Wall, an adjacent Jewish holy site. Police entered in force and clashed with dozens of Palestinians shortly after dawn prayers.

The hilltop compound is in Jerusalem’s Old City, home to major sites sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims. This year the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, Christian holy week culminating in Easter Sunday and the weeklong Jewish Passover are all occurring at the same time, with tens of thousands of visitors flocking to the city after coronavirus restrictions have been mostly lifted.



# Health & Wellness

This advertorial  
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin  
Foundation

## Another look at the 'Dirty Dozen'

By BARBARA INTERMILL  
MONTEREY HERALD

Did you ever think that strawberries, spinach and kale would be called "filthy"? Or leafy green vegetables "repeat offenders"? That's exactly how these especially nutritious fruits and vegetables are described in a recent article in USA Today.

What's the reason for this scandalous charge? A non-profit organization called the Environmental Working Group has released their annual Dirty Dozen and Clean Fifteen lists that target what they say are the most and least pesticide-contaminated non-organic fresh fruits and vegetables.

Not so fast, says the Alliance for Food and Farming (SafeFruitsandVeggies.com), another nonprofit that represents both organic and conventional farmers. The organization says the conclusions reached by the EWG are not supported by science and may unnecessarily scare people from eating perfectly safe and healthy food.

In fact, toxicologists (experts in the science of poisons) say the same data used by the EWG actually shows us how incredibly safe our food is from



We should eat more vegetables and fruit. And we can safely choose produce that has been grown organically or conventionally, writes Barbara Intermill.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

the effects of pesticides. In 2020, for example, the USDA's Pesticide Data Program found that over 99% of the samples tested had residues well below the tolerances established by the Environmental Protection Agency. And 30% of the samples had no detectable pesticide residue at all. That's pretty impressive, since technology can now detect as little as one part in a billion.

Why do we need pesticides at all? They protect valuable food crops from disease-causing pests. Even organic farm-

ers use approved pesticides when needed.

As one expert said, we should all try to minimize the amount of pesticides on the food we eat. But we don't have to singularly avoid conventionally produced foods to meet that goal.

If this sounds like a plea to ignore the benefits of organically grown foods, it's not. It is simply to put the health benefits of all fruits and vegetables into perspective. Decades of studies continue to show that a diet rich in fruits and vegetables (both

organically and conventionally grown) prevents numerous diseases, improves our mental abilities and immune function and leads to a longer life.

So the point seems not so much whether a fruit or vegetable is grown with the use of organic or conventional pesticides, but whether or not we are eating those fruits or vegetables. Even the EWG confirms that the health benefits of a diet rich in fruits and vegetables outweigh the risks of pesticide exposure.

Bottom line: We should eat more vegetables and fruit. And we can safely choose produce that has been grown organically or conventionally. It's been estimated, for example, that a woman could eat 774 servings of conventionally grown spinach and still have no toxic effects from pesticide residue.

I applaud our American farmers who groan under the weight of intense food safety regulations to assure we have safe food.

Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. She is the author of *Quinn-Essential Nutrition: The Uncomplicated Science of Eating*. Email her at [barbara@quinessentialnutrition.com](mailto:barbara@quinessentialnutrition.com).

## Mayo Clinic Q and A:

### Managing rare vascular syndrome



POP NUKOONRAT/DREAMSTIME/TNS

Specialists can catch problems that may develop due to Ehlers-Danlos in the early stages, when they're easier to treat.

By CYNTHIA WEISS  
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

**DEAR MAYO CLINIC: I recently was diagnosed with vascular Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. My doctor said there's no cure and that it's genetic. What can be done to treat this? I have two young children. Should they be tested for it?**

**ANSWER:** Ehlers-Danlos syndrome often causes overly flexible joints and stretchy, fragile skin. When you have this disorder, you may be prone to dislocating joints and bruising easily. Your skin may not heal well.

Vascular Ehlers-Danlos is a more severe form of the disorder that affects blood vessels. It can weaken the aorta, which is the large artery that carries blood away from your heart, as well as the arteries in the neck and abdomen. In some cases, vascular Ehlers-Danlos can weaken the walls of the large intestine or uterus, too.

Although it's true that Ehlers-Danlos syndrome cannot be cured, physical therapy often can help manage symptoms and prevent complications. Regular follow-up care and monitoring at a vascular center, such as Mayo Clinic, also is valuable. That's because specialists can catch problems that may develop due to Ehlers-Danlos in the early stages, when they're easier to treat.

Exercises to strengthen the muscles around your joints can help stabilize those joints. That lowers your risk of joint dislocation. A physical therapist can teach you how to perform those exercises and suggest other physical activities that fit your situation.

When you have Ehlers-Danlos you need to limit or avoid some activities. These activities include competitive or contact sports, weightlifting more than 40 pounds, sprinting and other resistance-type activities that increase your risk of inju-

ry. Light aerobic exercises are acceptable, such as swimming, jogging or biking.

For vascular Ehlers-Danlos, keeping your blood pressure low can ease the stress on your fragile blood vessels. That reduces the risk of blood vessel injuries, such as the walls of the arteries separating—a condition known as blood vessel dissection. Lowering blood pressure also can make it less likely that your blood vessels will bulge or rupture due to weakness. In some cases, you may need to take medication to keep your blood pressure low, such as metoprolol or losartan.

To monitor the health of your blood vessels over time, your health care professional may recommend regular imaging exams of your aorta and other major arteries.

People with Ehlers-Danlos have a chance of passing this disorder to their children. With that in mind, it is a good idea for you to consult with a genetic counselor to discuss the risks and benefits of genetic testing for your children.

Accurately diagnosing Ehlers-Danlos is crucial to ensuring the appropriate and timely medical care needed to avoid serious complications. In many cases, genetic testing is recommended for children who may have the disorder.

Because Ehlers-Danlos syndrome is uncommon, you should seek care from a specialist who is familiar with Ehlers-Danlos and has experience caring for people with this disorder. Also, because this disorder can affect a number of different areas and systems in your body, it is best to receive care for Ehlers-Danlos at a health care facility that offers access to all the medical specialties you may need, such as cardiology, vascular surgery and urology, among others.—*Dr. Fadi Shamoun, Cardiovascular Disease, Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Arizona*

## Addressing concerns and dispelling myths about organ donation

By Laurel Kelly  
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

April is National Donate Life Month. This annual observation raises awareness about donation, encourages people to register as donors and honors those who have saved lives

through the gift of donation.

Over 100,000 people in the U.S. are waiting for an organ transplant. And it's estimated 20 patients die every day in the U.S. because of the lack of donor organs.

Have you considered becoming a donor?

If you've never considered organ donation or delayed becoming a donor because of possibly inaccurate information, here are answers to some common organ donation myths and concerns:

**Myth: If I agree to donate my organs, my health care team won't work as hard to save my life.**

**Fact:** When you

go to the hospital for treatment, your health care team focuses on saving your life—not somebody else's.

**Myth: Organ donation is against my religion.**

**Fact:** Organ donation is consistent with the beliefs of most major religions, including Roman Catholicism, Islam, most branches of Judaism and most Protestant faiths.

**Myth: I'm under age 18, so I'm too young to make this decision.**

**Fact:** Many states allow people younger than 18 to register as organ donors, but your parents or legal guardian will make the final decision. Discuss your wish to become an organ donor with your family members, and ask for their consent. Keep in mind that children, too, are in need of organ transplants, and they usually need organs smaller than those an adult can provide.





**Myth: I'm too old to donate. Nobody would want my organs.**

**Fact:** There's no defined cutoff age for donating organs. The decision to use your organs is based on strict medical criteria—not age. Don't prematurely disqualify yourself. Let

### Healthy Living

## Getting enough 'C'

The recommended daily intake of Vitamin C is 90 mg for healthy adult men and 75 mg for women. Since the body doesn't store vitamin C, eat high-C foods daily.

Vitamin C in 3.5 oz (100 g) serving, in milligrams	
	Red sweet pepper 128
	Navel orange 458
	Sliced fresh tomato 138
	Blueberries 98

Source: U.S. National Institutes of Health, TNS Photo Service



# Life & Style

## Therapist: Depp and Heard had relationship of ‘mutual abuse’

By BEN FINLEY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A former personal assistant to Amber Heard said she never saw the actress suffer any physical abuse at the hands of then-husband Johnny Depp—but she said Heard once spit in her face when she asked for a higher salary.

Heard descended into screaming fits of blind rage, sent incoherent text messages at 4 a.m. and was often drunk and high on illegal drugs, Kate James testified in a video deposition that was played in court Thursday during the trial for Depp’s libel suit against Heard.

Depp, on the other hand, was very calm, almost shy, “like a total Southern gentleman,” James said.

The “Pirates of the Caribbean” actor has accused Heard of indirectly defaming him in a 2018 opinion piece that she wrote for The Washington Post. Heard refers to herself in the article as a “public figure representing domestic abuse.” The piece doesn’t name Depp. But his attorneys argue that it clearly references a restraining order that Heard sought in May 2016, right after Depp told her he wanted a divorce.

Depp denies abusing Heard, but Heard’s lawyers say evidence will prove that he did. The actor’s denials, they argue, lack credibility because he frequently drank and used drugs to the point of blacking out and failing to remember anything he did.

The video testimony from James offered an inverse view: Depp was the peaceful one, she said, while Heard was frequently intoxicated and verbally abusive, including to her own mother and sister.

“Her poor sister was treated like a dog that you kicked, basically,” James said.

James, who worked for Heard from 2012 to 2015, said she was paid “very poorly.” She said she was hired with an initial salary of \$25 an hour and that her duties ranged from picking up Heard’s dry cleaning to talking with the actress’s Hollywood agents.

James said she also was tasked with picking up two copies of any magazine that featured Heard and storing them in the garage to prevent Depp from seeing them. Heard went into a “blind rage” when James failed to place the magazines in the garage, James said.

Regarding Heard and Depp’s time together, James said Heard was a “very dramatic person” who was deeply insecure in the relationship. Heard often called James to cry and complain about Depp, she said.

“I remember one time she called me when she was alone in New York City, and she was crying and walking around the streets,” James said. She said she told Heard to go inside: “I was worried that the paparazzi might take a photo of her.”

Some of the deposition focused on a text message that Depp had sent to James after he and Heard split up. Depp’s text read: “Come over for a spot of purple and we’ll fix her flabby ass nice and good.”

A lawyer asked if “spot of purple” meant wine and whether “her” meant Heard. James said she didn’t want to speculate.

“This is the way he writes,” James said of Depp. “It’s very random and you don’t sort of question it. ... He writes in a very abstract way.”



AP  
This combination of photos shows actors Johnny Depp, left, and Amber Heard inside the courtroom for Depp’s libel suit against Heard at the Fairfax County Circuit Court on April 12, 2022, in Fairfax, Va.

Lawyers also presented a video deposition of Laurel Anderson, a couple’s therapist who worked with Heard and Depp in 2015, when they were ages 29 and 52, respectively.

Anderson said both suffered childhood abuse. As a couple, they were engaged in “mutual abuse,” she testified.

Heard’s father beat her, Anderson said, adding, “It was a

## White House Easter Egg Roll returns after 2-year hiatus

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House hopes to stir up some “egg-citement” when the Easter Egg Roll returns on Monday after a two-year, coronavirus-induced hiatus.

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden expect to welcome some 30,000 kids and their adult chaperones for the egg roll, an egg hunt and other activities.

The first lady, who is also a teacher, has named it the “Egg-ucation Roll,” the White House said, and is turning the South Lawn into a school community with a variety of educational stations.

It’s the first Easter Egg Roll to be hosted by the Bidens, who are expected to address the crowd and join in some of the fun, although rain was in Monday’s weather forecast.

The COVID-19 pandemic led the White House to cancel the

event in 2020 and 2021.

Besides the egg roll and hunt, the all-day event will include a schoolhouse activity area, a reading nook, a talent show, a place to teach children about farming, a photo-taking station, a physical “egg-ucation” zone with an obstacle course and other exercise stations, and a “cafetorium” where children and their families will learn to make treats.

The “egg-stravaganza” will get a celebrity splash through the participation of “Tonight Show” host Jimmy Fallon, singer Ciara and actor-singer Kristin Chenoweth.

More than two dozen costumed characters will also be on hand, including Dr. Seuss’ The Cat in the Hat, the Racing Presidents mascots for the Washington Nationals of Major League Baseball,

point of pride to her if she felt disrespected to initiate a fight.”

Heard would also rather be in a fight with Depp than see him leave, and “would strike him to keep him there,” Anderson said.

The therapist recalled a time when Heard told her that Depp “was ‘stepping up,’ as she would say, on a lot of drugs.”

“And she slapped him because he was being incoherent and talking about being with another woman,” Anderson said. She noted that Depp’s mother was in the hospital at the time.

Anderson said Depp told her that Heard “gave as good as she got.” She also said that in at least one session in which she saw Heard alone, the actress told her that Depp hit her. She said Heard showed her bruises, both in photos and

in person.

Anderson said Heard also told her that Depp at one point allegedly said, “No one likes you. You’re getting fame from me. I’m falling out of love with you. You’re a whore.”

Anderson also said that Heard’s “jackhammer style of talking” and habit of cutting off Depp overwhelmed him.

Heard “wanted to want to divorce” but also didn’t, and was still figuring out what to do, Anderson said. “She loved him. He loved her. She wasn’t stupid. She knew that what they were doing wasn’t healthy.”

Both Depp and Heard are expected to testify at the trial in Fairfax County Circuit Court, scheduled for six weeks, along with actors Paul Bettany and James Franco and tech entrepreneur Elon Musk.

Rosita and Cookie Monster from “Sesame Street” and Snoopy and Charlie Brown, among others.

Military families will be among the 30,000 participants, including crew members of the USS Delaware and their families. The first lady serves as sponsor of the nuclear attack submarine, which the president commissioned during a ceremony this month in Wilmington, Delaware.

Members of the general public received tickets through an online lottery.

The egg roll is always the largest event at the White House and it will be the Bidens’ first big event. It will unfold in five waves beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 6:30 p.m.

The return of this Easter tradition is a sign that the White House is opening up again

despite a recent spurt of COVID-19 cases among some Cabinet members, White House staff, Vice President Kamala Harris’ husband and members of Congress, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Self-guided, public tours of the executive mansion also resumed on Friday in a limited fashion, after they also were halted in 2020 because of the pandemic.

Stewart McLaurin, president of the White House Historical Association, said he was happy that public access to the executive mansion was “front and center” once again.

“As important as security is here, it’s also important that we keep the people’s house accessible to the people,” McLaurin said Friday.

The White House Easter Egg Roll dates to 1878.

## Travel plans complicated by boyfriend’s guilt trip

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend is 60 and has an autoimmune disease. He’s dependent on oxygen and suffers a great deal. He can drive, walk and care for himself, although I assist in his care quite a bit.

I was invited to take a trip with my daughter and my sisters to London next month for a week. He doesn’t want me to go and won’t say why, other than he’s frustrated because he can’t travel abroad. (He would never want to go on a girls trip to London.) He actually told me, “If you really loved me, you wouldn’t go.” I responded, “If you really loved ME, you would be happy for me to go with my family and enjoy the trip for a week.”

I cook and clean for him every day. I am the breadwinner and pay for everything. I treat him like a king. What should I do?

**YEARNING FOR TRAVEL**

**DEAR YEARNING:** You do plenty for your boyfriend. He is trying to guilt you into not going. With the load you have been carrying, you deserve a break. Ensure that a friend or family member of his can keep an eye on him in your absence. Then ignore his comments and go on that trip. Please!

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a dear old friend whose company I enjoy.

She is one of those stylish women who wears a lot of perfume. I have a hunch she bathes in it, uses a lotion next, then sprays it all over. You can smell her coming from 10 feet away. She may not realize it, but everyone notices it.

How I can tell her without her feelings being hurt is the issue. I’ve considered pretending I’m allergic by having a sneezing fit when I’m near her. I value her friendship, which is why I’ve kept my mouth shut. Any advice?

**PERFUME OVERLOADED FRIEND**

**DEAR PERFUME:** This may seem like heresy, but there are times when a little white lie is kinder than the truth. Many people DO have allergic reactions to scents, which can bring on headaches and sometimes attacks of nausea. My longtime personal trainer once told me that when people work out in the gym, the smell of their body lotion, perfume, etc. could bring on a migraine.

I don’t think it would be a cardinal sin to tell your friend you have developed a “reaction” to artificial scents and ask her to refrain from using them when she’s going to be with you. Either that, or see her only outdoors.

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My oldest daughter is getting married and has

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



asked my former father-in-law to walk her down the aisle. I have been there for her her whole life. My wife and I were divorced during her senior year of high school. Should I go, stay at home, sit on the groom’s side of the aisle or something else?

**FATHER OF THE BRIDE**

**DEAR FATHER:** Have you been invited to this wedding? If the answer is yes, talk to your daughter and ask her what she plans to do about the seating arrangements. Take your cue from what she tells you. You should not be seated on the groom’s side of the aisle. As the father of the bride you should be with the bride’s family, and ideally, you and your ex-wife should bury the hatchet if only for one day.



# Pastimes

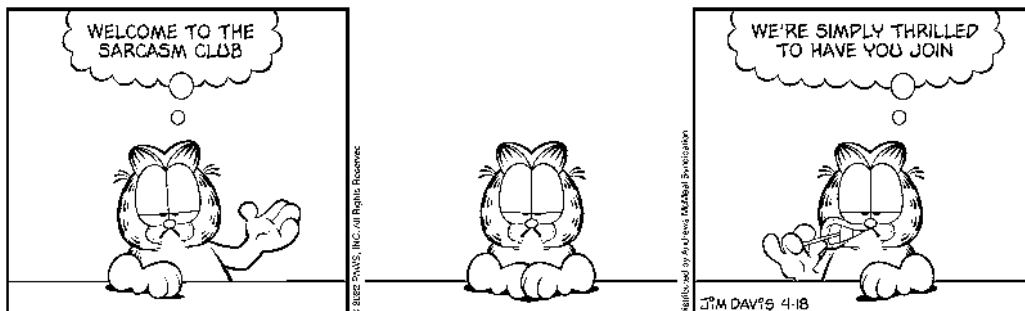
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Duck's hangout  
5 Atlas page  
8 Handle  
12 Suit to —  
13 Greek vowel  
14 Send forth  
15 Muffin type  
16 Students' sabbaticals  
18 "Scandal" creator  
20 Holly-wood's Hepburn  
21 Nebraska neighbor  
23 Roman 1051  
24 50 Cent, and others  
28 Jazzy Fitzgerald  
31 Cyndi Lauper's "— Bop"  
32 Community spirit  
34 Cover  
35 Mexican snack

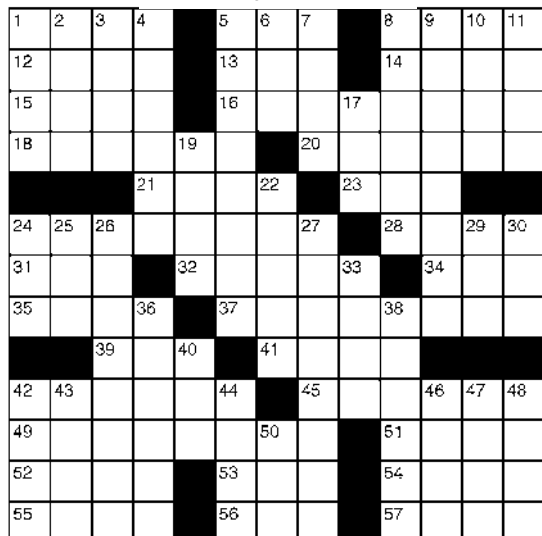
**DOWN**

1 Lobbying orgs  
2 "Alterna-tively," in a text  
3 Roman emperor  
4 Franz of "NYPD Blue"  
5 Large power unit  
6 —  
7 Dad  
8 Haystack find  
9 Texas city  
10 Bog  
11 Online crafts site  
17 "Tasty!"  
19 Lavish affection (on)  
22 Enlight-ened Buddhist  
24 Trio after Q  
25 "Caught ya!"  
26 Thanks-giving dessert  
27 Devious arguers  
29 Fish story  
30 Billboards  
33 Lat. and Lith., once  
36 Ejected  
38 Swindle  
40 Chiang —  
42 Recog-nized  
43 Swiss river  
44 Lewd material  
46 "Exodus" author  
47 Billions of years  
48 Actor Dick Van —  
50 Peyton's brother

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

L	A	S	A	P	O	P	B	F	F	S
E	C	O	L	E	N	A	A	B	I	T
C	A	U	L	D	R	O	N	I	B	S
H	I	P	H	O	P	A	P	T		
A	M	A	S	S	N	H	L	E	Y	E
L	A	L	A	I	D	E	W	A	L	E
E	M	O	D	N	A	W	A	K	E	N
C	A	U	C	U	S	E	R	R		
O	D	E	R	I	D	D	L	E		
S	L	A	V	C	A	U	T	I	O	U
P	O	R	E	T	A	P	E	L	B	S
A	X	E	S	S	A	T	S	L	E	O

Last Friday's Answer 04/18



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

## CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

America Ferrera, 38; Melissa Joan Hart, 46; Conan O'Brien, 59; Jane Leeves, 61.

**Happy Birthday:** Use intelligence, not force, to navigate your way through life. Strategy, plans, motivation and discipline are your ways to success and contentment. Work solo to minimize setbacks. Aim to spend less and do more of the work yourself. Hone your skills and pick up knowledge and insight into using your strengths to their fullest. Keep emotions out of your decisions. Your numbers are 3, 10, 23, 28, 30, 34, 42.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** A novel approach to health, wealth and emotional well-being will encourage better relationships with those who share your space, interests and concerns. Take pride in what you do, and embrace what life has to offer. A positive shift is apparent. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Lift all boundaries, and head into the future with optimism and hope. Change what you don't like, and enjoy the freedom you gain to follow your heart and dreams. Be proactive, and make your position clear to avoid conflict. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Take a moment to assess situations and map out a plan that will navigate you to your destination without interference. Observe the changes around you, but don't succumb to temptation or bullying. Discipline is your strength. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** A broad outlook will impact your decisions. Venture into unknown territory and flourish. ★★★

What you learn will lead to personal growth and insight into making the most with what you already have. Self-improvement is favored. ★★★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Put your emotions aside, and do what's necessary to reach your objective. Have a purpose in mind and a strategy in place. Stick to simple but effective options that will encourage stability and growth. Follow the path that suits you best. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Listen to what others say, and respond with compassion. Offer what you can, and be receptive to suggestions. Form partnerships that make your life easier and encourage you to live up to your word. Personal gain and romance are featured. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Take the path of least resistance. Concentrate on what you can do, and leave the impossible to another day. Look to your allies for advice, but don't make a premature decision. Inconsistency will result in instability. Don't fold under pressure. ★★★

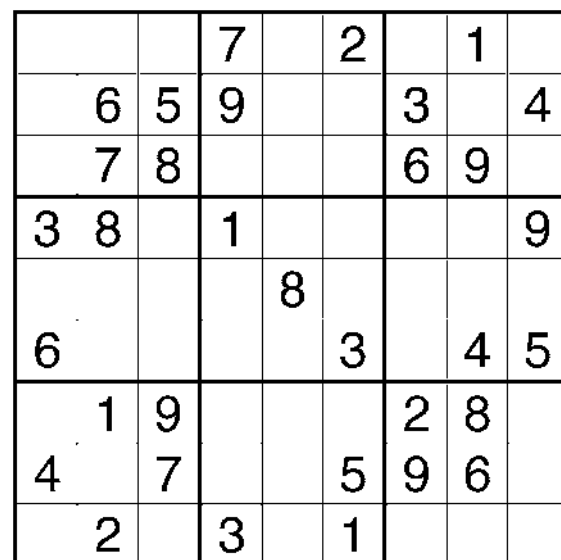
**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You'll have plenty of options. Follow a lead that offers something out of the ordinary, and put a unique spin on utilizing what you discover. Personal gain, self-improvement and physical fitness will build a strong mind, body and soul. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Question everyone and everything before you decide to change your mind or your life. Someone will count on your gullibility to push you in a direction that benefits them more than you. Don't let your emotions get the better of you. ★★★

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



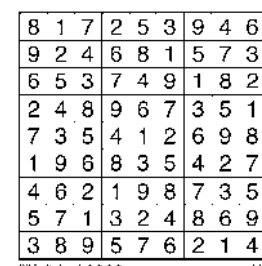
Difficulty Level ★

4/18

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** A change will play out in your favor. Consider how you can take advantage of a situation that falls into your lap. Explore the possibilities, and set a course based on good intentions and better health, wealth and emotional well-being. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Assess every situation before you make a move. An emotional problem will cause you to rethink your purpose and the best way forward. Don't ignore taking the road less traveled. Bide your time, and focus on doing the right thing. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You can make your way to victory if you follow your heart, use your intelligence and are willing to try something different. Personal improvement is within reach, and financial opportunities will stabilize your life. Love is in the stars. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are engaging, inquisitive and original. You are energetic and demonstrative.

☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☺☺: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☺☺☺: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☺☺☺☺: Aim high; start new projects. ☺☺☺☺☺: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID  
QUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE HUDSON VALLEY

Solution: 9 letters



© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com

4/18

Antiques, Cliffs, County, Craft, Crossings, Culture, Ecotourism, Fair, Festivals, Finger, Fjord, Great, Greene, Henry, Highlands, King, Lakes, Lodging, Lower, Lowlands, Lyndhurst, Middle, Mohawk, New York, Orange, Putnam, Resorts, Rhine, Ridge, River, Rocks, Shop, Sleep, State, Storm, Sullivan, Tech, Tours, Trail, Ulster, Upper, Westchester, Wine

**Last Friday's Answer: Housepot**  
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.



# Timberwolves stun Grizzlies, grab Game 1 with 130-117 win

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** (AP)—Anthony Edwards was glad to get a victory in the first playoff game of his career.

Now, he and the rest of the Minnesota Timberwolves, want much more.

Edwards scored 36 points in his postseason debut, and the seventh-seeded Timberwolves stunned the No. 2 seed Memphis Grizzlies 130-117 on Saturday to grab home-court advantage in the opener of their first-round Western Conference series.

“Putting on another show,” said Edwards, the top overall pick in the 2020 draft. “That’s it. Putting on another show and impact winning.”

All-Star center Karl-Anthony Towns added 29 points and 13 rebounds. Malik Beasley had 23 points, and Jaden McDaniels 15. Patrick Beverley and D’Angelo Russell had 10 apiece.

The Timberwolves, fresh off beating the Los Angeles Clippers in the play-in game, won their first playoff opener since 2004. That’s when they beat Denver in the first round on their way to the Western Conference finals.

Towns said it was a good feeling walking off with a confidence-building win.

“We did a lot of little things that are needed to win,” Towns said. “We should be very proud of our performance.”

Game 2 is Tuesday night in Memphis.

Ja Morant led Memphis with 32 points and eight assists, and Dillon Brooks added 24 points. Brandon Clarke had 13 points and 12 rebounds off the bench. Desmond Bane scored 17 points and Jaren Jackson Jr. had 12.

“I feel like most of the stuff was on us,” Morant said. “That’s why we lost.”

Memphis tied the franchise record by winning 56 games in the regular season and earning its highest seed ever. The Grizzlies had a packed FedExForum for only their third Game 1 in Memphis. But they struggled early after a week off and led only twice by two, the last midway through the second quarter.

“We tried our best to stay ready, but it’s been a minute since we played,” Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said. “But we have to come out ready to go. We didn’t in the first quarter, and we paid for it.”

In this matchup of the NBA’s top-scoring offenses and two of the league’s youngest teams this season, the Timberwolves set franchise records for points in both the first quarter and the game. They also stymied Memphis with their 3-point shooting, re-



Minnesota Timberwolves forward Anthony Edwards (1) shoots against Memphis Grizzlies guard Desmond Bane (22) in the second half of Game 1 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series Saturday, April 16, 2022, in Memphis, Tenn.

bounding and defense.

The Timberwolves looked like a team that played Tuesday night needing a win to clinch its seeding. They opened with a 9-2 run and led by as much as 13 before a 41-33 lead for the franchise’s highest-scoring first quarter in the playoffs.

Minnesota led 65-62 at halftime, then outscored Memphis 32-30 in the third for a 97-92 lead going into the fourth quarter.

## Warriors 123, Nuggets 107

In San Francisco, Jordan Poole shined in his playoff debut with 30 points, staying in the starting lineup as Stephen Curry returned from a foot injury, and Golden State smothered Nikola Jokic and Denver in Game 1 of Western Conference series.

Curry came off the bench to contribute 16 points in 21 minutes after missing exactly a month with a sprained ligament in his left foot. Klay Thompson had 19 points with five 3-pointers.

Jokic had 25 points and 10 rebounds for Denver.

Game 2 Monday night in San Francisco.

## Jazz 99, Mavericks 93

In Dallas, Donovan Mitchell scored 30 of his 32 points in the second half, Bojan Bogdanovic added 26 and Utah beat Dallas — playing without All-Star guard Luka Doncic — in Game 1 of the Western Conference series.

The fourth-seeded Mavericks, starting the playoffs at home for the first time since their NBA title season 11

## The NBA playoffs are here, with many eyes on favored Phoenix

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Devin Booker does not take having another chance at an NBA championship lightly.

Over his first four years in Phoenix, among players who appeared in at least 200 games spanning the 2015-16 through the 2018-19 seasons, nobody in the NBA experienced more losing than Booker did. He appeared in 272 games in those years, and the Suns lost 197 of them.

“A lot has shifted since then,” Booker said. “We’ve watched it grow. We’ve watched it develop. I obviously don’t forget those days. All those times make now even better, make now even more important.”

They were the NBA’s worst team in those days. They were the NBA’s best team in this just-concluded regular season. And now comes the big test — the playoffs, and the Suns enter as the overwhelming favorites to become the team that takes the Larry O’Brien Trophy from Commissioner Adam Silver’s hands sometime in June.

The first four games on the official playoff slate — the play-in games don’t count, officially — are Saturday, the other four Game 1’s are on Sunday. LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers aren’t in the postseason, after their season became a stunning failure and cost coach Frank Vogel his job less than two years after winning an NBA title. Chicago,

Golden State, Minnesota and Toronto are back in the postseason after not getting there a year ago.

And the longest active run of postseason appearances belongs to the Boston Celtics, in the playoffs now for an eighth consecutive year. The Celtics get a Round 1 showdown; former Boston guard Kyrie Irving and two-time champion Kevin Durant will lead the Brooklyn Nets into an Eastern Conference first-round series against the Celtics.

“Excited for the opportunity,” Celtics forward Jayson Tatum said.

Everybody at this time of year should feel the same way.

Phoenix went 64-18 this season, eight games better than anybody else in the NBA; Western Conference No. 2 seed Memphis was 56-26. Only four other teams in the last 49 seasons finished the regular season with at least eight more wins than the second-best club, and all four of those teams — most recently the 2000 Lakers — went on to win the NBA title.

“People don’t understand what it really takes to win a championship,” said Suns center JaVale McGee, a three-time NBA champion and part of the team that won Olympic gold for USA Basketball at the Tokyo Games last summer. “They think, like, you compile all the best players together and there it is. It’s not. There’s definitely a percentage of luck, and by

luck I mean staying healthy.”

There are a few people in the league who understand what it takes to win a championship. Many of them reside in Milwaukee. Oddsmakers at FanDuel Sportsbook predict an NBA Finals rematch, with Phoenix favored to win this year’s title and Milwaukee the second choice, ahead of Miami, Golden State, Boston and Brooklyn.

The Bucks are the defending NBA champions, rallying from a 2-0 series deficit to beat Phoenix in six games a year ago, and most of the principal parts of that team — Finals MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, Khris Middleton and Jrue Holiday among them — are back, and ready for more.

Winning a title last year doesn’t affect the desire to win one this year in any way, Antetokounmpo said.

“I want to be the best that I can be,” Antetokounmpo said. “I want to enjoy the game as much as possible. I want to play good basketball. I want to help my team win games. That’s pretty much it. The pressure is always the same. I’m not thinking about winning a championship or we won a championship. That’s in the past. That’s over with.”

The Bucks are the No. 3 seed in the East this year, behind No. 1 Miami and No. 2 Boston. Miami is bidding for a second trip to the NBA Finals in the last three seasons, after the then-fifth-seeded Heat made the title series

years ago, sorely missed their 23-year-old superstar. Doncic strained his left calf six days earlier in the regular-season finale. Coach Jason Kidd has said only that he is day to day. Game 2 is Monday night in Dallas.

Jalen Brunson, the starting point guard with Doncic out, had 24 points on 9-of-24 shooting with seven rebounds. Spencer Dinwiddie scored 22 points.

## 76ers 131, Raptors 111

In Philadelphia, Tyrese Maxey scored 21 of his playoff career-high 38 points in the third quarter to help Philadelphia beat Toronto in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference playoffs.

James Harden had 22 points and 14 assists, and NBA scoring champion Joel Embiid added 19 points and 15 rebounds. Tobias Harris had 26 points.

Pascal Siakam scored 24 points for Toronto.

Game 2 is Monday night in Philadelphia.

in the restart bubble at Walt Disney World in 2020.

The regular season is one thing, Heat All-Star Jimmy Butler said. But the playoffs are what matter.

“That’s been on all of our minds all year long,” Butler said. “That’s the reason that we play the game. I think we’ve been a great team all year long. But now is the time we talk about.”

The Heat and Suns find out their Round 1 opponents after Friday night’s conclusion of the play-in tournament. It’ll be a tight turnaround for the top seeds, both of whom will play Game 1’s on Sunday.

The Dallas-Utah, Minnesota-Memphis, Toronto-Philadelphia and Golden State-Denver series all begin Saturday. Miami and Phoenix start their respective series Sunday, along with Brooklyn-Boston and Chicago-Milwaukee.

The last team to finish the regular season with the best record and go on to win the NBA title was Golden State in 2017. Houston in 2018, Milwaukee in 2019 and 2020, and Utah last season couldn’t get it done. The Suns believe they’ll be the ones who buck that trend.

“We’re the best team in the world and we’re having fun doing it,” McGee said. “I know from the outside looking in, they hate it. But we’ve got to keep going. We’re keeping our head down. We’re not worried about nobody else but ourselves.”



# Abreu, Hendriks help White Sox hold off Rays, 3-2

**CHICAGO** (AP)—José Abreu homered for the first time this season, closer Liam Hendriks left the bases loaded in the ninth inning and the Chicago White Sox beat the Tampa Bay Rays 3-2 Saturday.

Michael Kopech threw five solid innings, and Yasmani Grandal singled away from the shift to put Chicago ahead in the sixth. Eloy Jiménez and Tim Anderson added two hits apiece for the White Sox, who have won six of seven and are off to a 6-2 start for the first time since 2016 despite several key injuries.

Hendriks struck out Taylor Walls in the ninth for his fourth save after intentionally walking pinch-hitter Ji-Man Choi to load the bases. Hendriks also got the save in a 3-2 win Friday night.

Reynaldo López (2-0) allowed a run in an inning.

Grandal's single off Ryan Thompson (1-1) gave the White Sox the lead for good in the sixth. Luis Robert scored after reaching on an error.

## Dodgers 5, Reds 2

In Los Angeles, Trea Turner launched a two-run homer and Los Angeles finally caught up to some record-setting heat from Cincinnati rookie Hunter Greene, beating the skidding Reds for its fifth consecutive victory.

In his highly anticipated homecoming, Greene threw an astounding 39 pitches 100 mph or faster on a cool Southern California evening — most in a single game since pitch tracking began in 2008.

Making his second major league start, the 22-year-old right-hander also fired 13 pitches at least 101 mph — another record.

But with his velocity dipping slightly later in his outing, it was a 99 mph fastball to Turner that ended up in the left-field seats to break a scoreless tie in the sixth inning.

Turner finished with three hits and has a 27-game hitting streak going back to last season.

## Angels 7, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Shohei Ohtani hit his third home run in two games, Noah Syndergaard won a matchup of local pitchers and Los Angeles defeated Texas.

The game featured two starters from opposite sides of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in Syndergaard and Rangers lefty Taylor Hearn. It also became the latest showcase for Ohtani, the two-way superstar who won the AL MVP award last year.

Syndergaard (2-0) allowed

two runs and five hits over six innings. Hearn (0-1) gave up three runs in 3 2/3 innings.

Both threw 82 pitches, but Syndergaard was more economical. He needed just five pitches to get through the first inning and did not walk anybody. The right-hander retired the last 10 batters he faced after giving up two runs in the third.

## Braves 5, Padres 2

In San Diego, Ian Anderson pitched one-run ball into the sixth inning, Matt Olson hit one of Atlanta's three homers and the Braves beat San Diego.

Anderson (1-1) allowed two hits and struck out seven over 5 2/3 innings. Kenley Jansen pitched the ninth for his second save.

Padres rookie starter Nick Martinez (0-1) was stung by the long ball. Ozzie Albies hit a solo shot on his second pitch of the game, and Olson and Marcell Ozuna also connected. Manny Piña also may have gone deep, but center fielder Trent Grisham made a sensational leaping catch at the wall in the second.

Jurickson Profar homered off Anderson in the second, and Grisham had a solo shot in the eighth. The Padres have lost four of five.

## Red Sox 4, Twins 0

In Boston, Alex Verdugo and Xander Bogaerts each hit a two-run homer and Tanner Houck held Minnesota scoreless over five-plus innings.

Houck (1-0) was solid, allowing just two hits and three walks while striking out four. Matt Strahm got the next three outs and Garrett Whitlock gave up just two hits while retiring the final seven.

Minnesota starter Sonny Gray (0-1) allowed a homer to Verdugo in the second inning before being pulled two batters later with right hamstring tightness. Gray tossed just 31 pitches, with a walk and one strikeout.

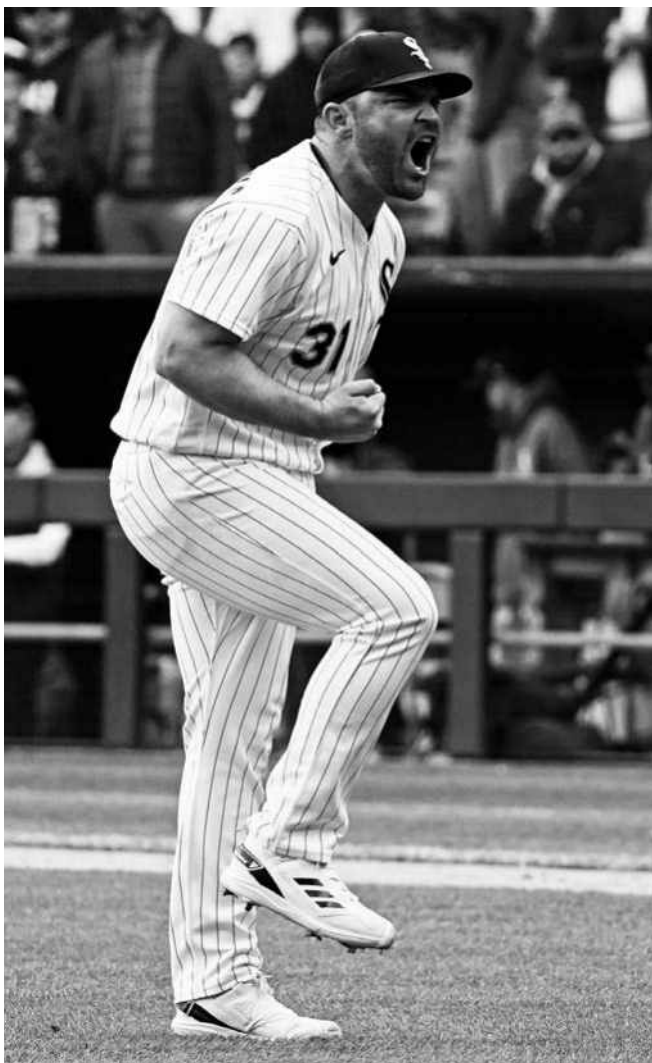
Josh Winder went 5 1/3 innings in relief, yielding two runs off four hits, a walk and Bogaerts' home run while striking out two. The team said Gray is considered day-to-day.

## Athletics 7, Blue Jays 5

In Toronto, Cristian Pache hit a go-ahead home run in the ninth inning, Sean Murphy also connected and Oakland snapped a six-game losing streak against Toronto.

Facing Julian Merryweather (0-2), Pache hammered a 1-0 pitch into the right field bullpen for his first home run of the season and second of his career.

Oakland right-hander Dany Jiménez (1-0) worked one



Chicago White Sox relief pitcher Liam Hendriks reacts after his team defeated the Tampa Bay Rays in a baseball game in Chicago, Saturday, April 16, 2022.

inning for the win and Lou Trivino pitched around a lead-off walk in the ninth to earn his second save in three opportunities.

Toronto's Matt Chapman and Zack Collins homered on consecutive pitches from Athletics right-hander Domingo Acevedo in the sixth as the Blue Jays erased a 5-2 deficit. Chapman's two-run homer was his second of the season, while Collins connected for the first time.

## Cardinals 2, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Steven Matz (1-1) pitched 5 2/3 shutout innings and combined with three relievers on a five-hitter as St. Louis edged Milwaukee.

Paul DeJong hit a two-out RBI double in the fourth and Corey Dickerson singled home an insurance run with two outs in the eighth.

Giovanny Gallegos struck out Andrew McCutchen to end the eighth and worked around Willy Adames' leadoff single in the ninth to earn his second save in two opportunities.

Adrian Houser (0-2) allowed one run and four hits in 5 2/3 innings with four strikeouts and three walks.

## Yankees 5, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Josh Donaldson hit his first home run since joining the Yankees, a tie-breaking two-run shot in the fifth inning that lifted New York over Baltimore.

struck out eight with no walks on 87 pitches.

Maldonado connected off Chris Flexen (0-2). Jeremy Peña tripled in the seventh and scored on Jose Altuve's single off reliever Matt Festa.

## Giants 4, Guardians 2

In Cleveland, Brandon Belt scored the go-ahead run on a bases-loaded grounder by Wilmer Flores in the eighth inning, sending San Francisco over Cleveland.

With one out, Flores hit a sharp grounder that second baseman Ernie Clement stopped before forcing out Brandon Crawford at second. But shortstop Amed Rosario had to delay his throw to first when first baseman Owen Miller was late getting back to the bag.

Austin Slater subsequently scored on a wild pitch by Nick Sandlin (0-1) to extend San Francisco's lead to two.

Dominic Leone (1-0) worked a scoreless seventh for the win and Jake McGee earned his first save of the season.

## Phillies 10, Marlins 0

In Miami, Bryce Harper doubled in two runs, walked twice and stole home, and Philadelphia beat Miami.

Alec Bohm had two hits and three RBIs, and Nick Castellanos added two singles and an RBI for the Phillies, who snapped a four-game losing skid.

Phillies starter Ranger Suárez (1-0) overcame a difficult season debut and threw five innings of two-run ball.

Trevor Rogers (0-2) allowed seven runs and four hits, struck out three and walked four in 1 2/3 innings.

## Diamondbacks 3, Mets 2

In New York, Sergio Alcantara snapped a scoreless tie with a two-run homer in the seventh inning, Ketel Marte added an RBI double and Arizona beat New York.

Arizona ended an 11-game skid at Citi Field with its first victory in Queens since Aug. 24, 2017. New York won that series finale the next day and swept three-game sets in 2018, 2019 and 2021 before winning Friday's opener.

The Diamondbacks squandered a bases-loaded opportunity against Carlos Carrasco in the fourth before breaking through against Joely Rodríguez (0-1) and Seth Lugo.

Mark Melancon struck out two in a perfect ninth as he earned his first save with the Diamondbacks and preserved the win for Sean Poppen (1-0), who retired all four batters he faced in the sixth and seventh.

## Rockies 9, Cubs 6

In Denver, C.J. Cron homered twice and Antonio Senzatela pitched five solid innings in his 100th career start for Colorado as the Rockies beat Chicago.

Cron hit a two-run shot in a four-run third and connected again leading off the seventh for his third homer in two games and fifth this season. Alan Trejo had two hits and two RBIs, and Connor Joe added an RBI triple.

Patrick Wisdom had three hits, including a two-run double in Chicago's four-run seventh. Jonathan Villar had four hits and three RBIs for the Cubs.

Senzatela (1-0) permitted one run and seven hits. Daniel Bard got three outs for his fourth save.

Mark Leiter Jr. (0-1), recalled from Triple-A Iowa, made his Cubs debut and struck out the side in the first inning before running into trouble. He went 3 1/3 innings and allowed seven runs on seven hits in his first major league appearance since Sept. 25, 2018.

## Royals 3, Tigers 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Hunter Dozier homered to break a tie in the sixth and lead Kansas City over Detroit.

After Carlos Santana walked with one out, Dozier lifted an 0-2 pitch from Will Vest (0-1) into the left field bleachers for his first home run of the year.

Collin Snider (2-0), the first of four Royals relievers, picked up the victory getting five outs. Josh Staumont earned the club's first save of the season as Kansas City snapped a five-game losing streak.

Royals starter Kris Bubic departed after 4 1/3 innings, allowing one run on two hits and five walks. He struck out four.

## Pirates 6, Nationals 4

In Pittsburgh, Michael Chavis capped a three-hit night with a leadoff triple in the eighth inning, and Pittsburgh beat Washington.

Diego Castillo drove in Chavis with a single, giving Pittsburgh a 4-2 lead. Chavis has reached safely in eight of 14 plate appearances this season.

Dillon Peters (2-0) relieved Pirates starter Bryse Wilson and pitched two no-hit innings. David Bednar surrendered one hit and one walk in 1 2/3 innings.

Juan Soto homered, doubled and walked twice, but Washington was 2 for 11 with runners in scoring position and stranded 11. Josh Rogers (1-1) took the loss.



# HBR upsets The Game in open caging

MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



HBR International upset a depleted The Game crew, 61-53, in the open division of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Seeing action in the third and final game, the league-leaders were easy pickings from the get-go as they were missing their heavy hitters. It also helped that HBR International got a big lift from youthful Isaac Perez, who exploded for 10 points in the first 10 minutes of action to help his team to a 19-11 lead.

It was more of a team effort for Perez and company in the second as HBR International continued to have the driver's seat and entered intermission



CONTRIBUTED OHOTO

HBR International players are all smiles after upsetting The Game in the open division of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

with a 32-23 spread.

Returning Douglas "Spider" Schmidt tried to rally The Game in third by going berserk with 10 points in the period, but HBR International was as steady as it goes and again spread the wealth and as a re-

sult took a 46-37 advantage in the fourth and final quarter.

Perez got back into rhythm in the fourth, igniting for another 8 points as HBR International leveled its win-loss count to 5-5, while exacting The Game only its second

loss in 11 outings. Perez top-scored for HBR International with 22 points, while Schmidt was the high-point man for the losing team with 21 markers.

In the first game, Team Marianas improved to 9-1 fol-

lowing an 82-72 win against Blue Haus. Jeff Castro paced the now league-leaders with 18 points, while Errol Peredo was brilliant in defeat with 26 points.

In the lone masters game of the evening, Marianas Dental Center kept Magalahi Eagles winless at 0-7 while hiking their win-loss card to 4-6 following a 61-42 decision. As usual, Fradel Sedillo led MDC with 30 points, while Dennis Cortez fired 14 in a losing effort.

On the April 10 playdate, JTM (6-4) bested Gravity 670 (6-6), 88-71; Lakay/Islander (8-5) defeated Royal Pacific (2-7), 82-66; and Team Marianas thrashed Super Tech (1-10), 121-35, all in the open division.

## First Game

**Team Marianas 82** – Castro 18, Sablan 11, Santos 10,

Dela Cruz 7, Deleon Guerrero 7, Brennan 7, Satur 6, Augenbaugh 2, Villarín 2.

**Blue Haus 72** – Peredo 26, Devero 20, De Dedios 8, Santos 4, Taliania 4, De Guzman 4, Miko 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-15, 37-33, 55-51, 82-72.

## Second Game

**MDC 61** – Sedillo 30, Catalla 10, Echavez 5, Tolentino 4, Quimado 4, Manipon 4, Lumauag 4.

**Magalahi Eagles 42** – Cortez 14, Brillo 12, Panes 10, Claveria 6.

**Scoring by quarters:** 10-10, 26-23, 43-32, 61-42.

## Third Game

**HBD International 61** – Perez 22, Antonio 11, Romo 10, Gotengco 6, Galang 4, Reyes 2, Sapo 2.

**The Game 53** – Schmidt 21, Mintac 15, Deleon Guerrero 8, Rangamar 4, Albert 3, Dayao 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-11, 32-23, 46-37, 61-53.

## 15

From Page 20

bounds, and 4 steals to claim the Finals MVP award.

The islands' *man'amko* were hailed when triathlon's Florence Antonio won the May honor for his performance in that month's Paupau Taga Triathlon where he won the 60-and-above age group. Despite an extended leave of absence from sports due to health concerns, Antonio was able to outpace his younger rivals. Antonio has bounced back from setbacks and is back into the triathlon and multi-sport race scene.

Andreau Galvez of badminton is the June winner after skipping Shirley's Badminton Club to the championship of the Tan Holdings Badminton Team Tournament 2021

that month. Galvez finished the competition unbeaten and was the only player in the tournament to earn a perfect 5-0 record.

Paddling's Jason Tarkong earned the monthly plum for July after ruling the 6.5-mile long-distance V1 race from Kilili Beach to Garapan Fishing Base and back that month. He accomplished the feat by overcoming rough wind and sea conditions not to mention rivals nipping at his heels.

The September awardee is weightlifting's David Barnhouse who successfully competed in the first-ever Oceania Weightlifting Championships via Internet. Competing in the 109+ kilogram category, he won a silver medal after a snatch of 110 kg (242 lbs) and a clean and jerk of 145 kg (319 lbs) for a total of 255 kg (561 lbs). The meet also saw

him earn his first ever ranking in the Oceania Weightlifting Federation and International Weightlifting Federation.

Sefric Veloria of badminton was named male athlete for October after taking home the men's C singles and men's C doubles championships in the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021.

For November, Derek Cutting of bodybuilding was literally a cut above the rest after winning first place in the middleweight category and overall champion in the open competition of the 2021 Dee Clayton Classic Bodybuilding & Fitness Championship. A U.S. Army Reserve sergeant, Cutting is a very experienced bodybuilder having previously competed in Guam, the U.S. mainland, and Hawaii.

Triathlon's Denise Myers leads the women athlete of the

year nominees after earning the monthly distinction in January 2021 for her runner-up performance in the 6th Saipan Aquathlon. A health and physical education instructor for the Northern Marianas College, Myers finished the 5km run, 1km swim, and 2.5km run event in a time of 1:08:31.

Antonette Labausa of weightlifting won the March honor after topping her weight class at the 2nd Annual Marianas Cup Weightlifting Championships that month. She had a best snatch at 76 kg/167.2 lbs and a best clean and jerk of 94 kg/206.8 lbs for total of 165 kg/363 lbs.

Cycling's Julie Rose Felipe was the April winner after the 39-year-old topped the 40-kilometer Saipan Unity Lions Club Bike Race that month. Biking since the age of 9, she was also the winner of the Pika

Fest 65KM Road Race held in Tinian two months prior.

Zarinae Sapong of athletics ran the century dash a season best 13.42 seconds in the Northern Marianas Athletics Track and Field Open Meet last June to easily earn her the monthly award for that month. It was her first competition in more than a year since most regional events in athletics have been postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Heather Calderwood of paddling was the July award-ee after the 31-year old came first in the women's 6.5-mile V1 long-distance race held in July at Kilili Beach. Winds were strong, the seas were rough, and the battle for first place was close. With just four months of paddling experience, Calderwood's physical fitness, positive attitude, willingness to learn and train

hard resulted in the first-place victory.

Badminton's Malou Malasarte took the October award after she reigned supreme in the women's B singles and the women's B doubles of the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021. Malasarte also played in the women's B doubles, but she and Rowena Houck lost to Hannah Choi and Windy Fernandez in the semis.

Aside from the Male and Female Athletes of the Year, NMSA will also name the Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year, Team of the Year, Coach of the Year, and Administrator of the Year. The association will also fete the monthly winners under the athletes and team categories, while NMSA's Hall of Fame Screening Committee will announce the new inductees into the NMI Sports Hall of Fame.

## TRUE

From Page 20

only our second season in the 'masters' and last season we finished third place. The good thing about my players is that they never get really mad, win or lose," said Cepeda, who thanked their sponsoring sports bar, True North in Ga-

rapan for supporting them the entire season.

The rest of the True North Mafia team is made up of Jayson John, Alfred Hocog, Joker Camacho, Patrick "Tako" Taitano, and Derrick Ayuyu.

Finishing third after True North Mafia and 6JMS Pythons was the latter's sister team, 6JMS Thunder Darts.

In the A Division, 6JMS Drunker Dragons breathed fire and won with a 195-140 record, followed by 6JMS Thunder Darts (191-149) and Jonny's Ridin' Darty (168-115) for second and third place, respectively. The champion 6JMS Drunker Dragons are led by skipper Raymond "Yatz" Naluz with Tony "The

Tiger" Castro, Ronald Doria, Kenneth "Kenpatchi" Kaneshi, Chris "CupCake" Omnes, and Gigi "Badong" Gatmaitan as teammates.

True North CUC Power Generation surged to the championship of the Inter-Government League with its 130-95 win-loss ranking. It was followed by 6JMS CNMI Guard-

ians (117-108) and True North Dart Magic (115-110). Patrick "Tako" Taitano is the team captain of True North CUC Power Generation and the rest of the players are Ray "Udas" Cepeda, Joe Muña, Dexter Rauliman, Jess "Pinatubo" Villar, and Joker Camacho.

Results of the C Division, Tuesday B Division, Flame

Tree B Division, and Fanihi B Division will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

The Saipan Electronic Darts Association as well as the Saipan Billiards Association is managed by Pacific Amusement with the help of MARPAC, Bud Light, and Budweiser.

## TAN

From Page 20

they showcase not only their speed, but also their strategy in this unique event," NMA general secretary and race director Robin Sapong said.

Tan Holdings 50th Anniversary 10K Relay Invitational Run will be held on the Saipan Golf Course and will feature 50 two-person teams. Each runner on the team will cover

5K distance or round the 2.5K course at the Saipan Vegas-owned facility two times. The Top 5 teams will receive great prizes, however to qualify for the prizes, teams must complete the 10K race between 50 minutes and 59 minutes, 59 seconds (combined time)

"This is where strategy comes in, as when choosing a partner, you have to know his/her capability in completing the course around the

target time. Fast runners can finish under 50, but will not qualify for the prizes since we're looking at 50 minutes and spare in celebration of Tan Holding 50th anniversary," Sapong said.

The race director added that all runners will head out to the course together without GPS or earphones so they would not know how much time have they spent running. Each squad will have support crew

coming from representatives of TanHoldings.

"We are grateful to NMA for taking the lead in this event, which gives us the opportunity to celebrate Tan Holding 50th anniversary with the NMI residents and our very active running community. This is our inaugural activity for this year's anniversary celebration and will have more sports and community activities in the com-

ing months as Tan Holdings' way of saying thank you to the NMI for supporting us and helping the company to continue providing services to not just to our islands, but throughout the Micronesian region," TanHoldings chief executive officer Jerry Tan said.

Registration for the 10K relay will be available via Race Roster through invites from the NMA. All entry in-

vites are determined by race results in NMA-sanctioned events this year, according to Sapong.

Proceeds from the April 30 race will all be donated to the NMI National Athletics Team that will be competing in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 in June.

For more information about the race, check NMA's Facebook page at NMI Athletics or RunSaipan. (PR)






**Timberwolves stun Grizzlies, grab Game 1 with 130-117 win**

**PAGE 17**

**HBR upsets The Game in open caging**

**PAGE 19**



## 15 finalists for Athlete of the Year awards

**MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**T**his past year's athletic excellence will be feted during the 2021 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet when the Male Athlete of the Year and Female Athlete of the Year will be honored tomorrow evening at the Kensington Hall of Kensington Hotel Saipan.

A total of 15 monthly winners—nine male and six female awardees—are nominated for the yearly honor that been made more difficult and awe-inspiring given that they won the award in yet another year when training and competing were made more difficult by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The past year's first male monthly winner is Shuji Kuroda after the then Grandvrio Resort Saipan F&B assistant manager won the 6th Saipan Aquathlon (5km run/1km swim/2.5km run) in February 2021 in a time of 56:19.

March winner is Leonardo Apelo who got the nod after

topping his weight class en route to being the best overall lifter at the 2nd Annual Marianas Cup Weightlifting Championships. His best snatch was 115 kg/253 lbs and best clean and jerk was 145 kg/319 lbs for a total of 260 kg/572 lbs.

Basketball's Matthew Richardson also punched his ticket to the yearly awards after leading the NMI Rollers Black Team to the championship of the U19 Division of the Rollers Basketball Association 2021 Spring Madness League. In the finals, the guard/forward had a triple double with 11 points, 12 assists, 16 re-

**See 15 on Page 19**



Galvez



Labausa



Barnhouse



Myers



Cutting



Antonio



Calderwood



Tarkong



Felipe



Apelo



Malasarte



Richardson



Veloria



Kuroda



Sapong

## True North Mafia shows mastery of SEDA league

**MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

True North Mafia proved it was definitely the real OG in the A+ Division of the 2021-2022 Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light Dart League that held its awards banquet last Saturday at The Magellan of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The team finished tied with 6JMS Pythons with a 162-144 win-loss record after the season, but gave their opponents

an offer it couldn't refuse in the tiebreaker to win the premier division of the league. In the race to nine games, True North Mafia took down 6JMS Pythons, 9-5.

Team captain Ray "Udas" Cepeda attributed True North Mafia's success in their recent campaign to his fellow players' commitment to the team and their unrivaled chemistry.

"Commitment and just playing by having fun...All

of them are good and all of us have one heart," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The A+ Division title capped a meteoric rise for True North Mafia. Prior to moving up to the unofficial masters division of SEDA, the team had won championships in the A, B, and C divisions as well as in the inter-government league.

"This is our first time to win in the 'masters' league. It's

**See TRUE on Page 19**



MARK RABAGO

True North Mafia players receive their championship trophies for topping the A+ Division of the 2021-2022 Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light Dart League during the awards banquet last Saturday at The Magellan of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

## Tan Holdings 50th Anniversary 10K Relay on April 30



COTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, Northern Marianas Athletics held its cross country championships at the Saipan Golf Course, which will be the venue for the Tan Holdings 50th Anniversary 10K Relay Invitational Run scheduled for April 30.



Tan Holdings is teaming up with Northern Marianas Athletics in holding the Tan Holdings 50th Anniversary 10K Relay Invitational Run on April 30.

The event will kick off the various sports and community activities that Tan Holdings will be hosting this year to celebrate its golden anniversary.

"The Northern Marianas Athletics is pleased to partner with Tan Holdings for this race to mark the company's milestone. We are excited to bring together our competitive runners in the community as

**See TAN on Page 19**



**60 DAYS LEFT UNTIL**



**NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022**

**JUNE 17-25, 2022**